THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Sept. 29th—Oct. 5th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 39

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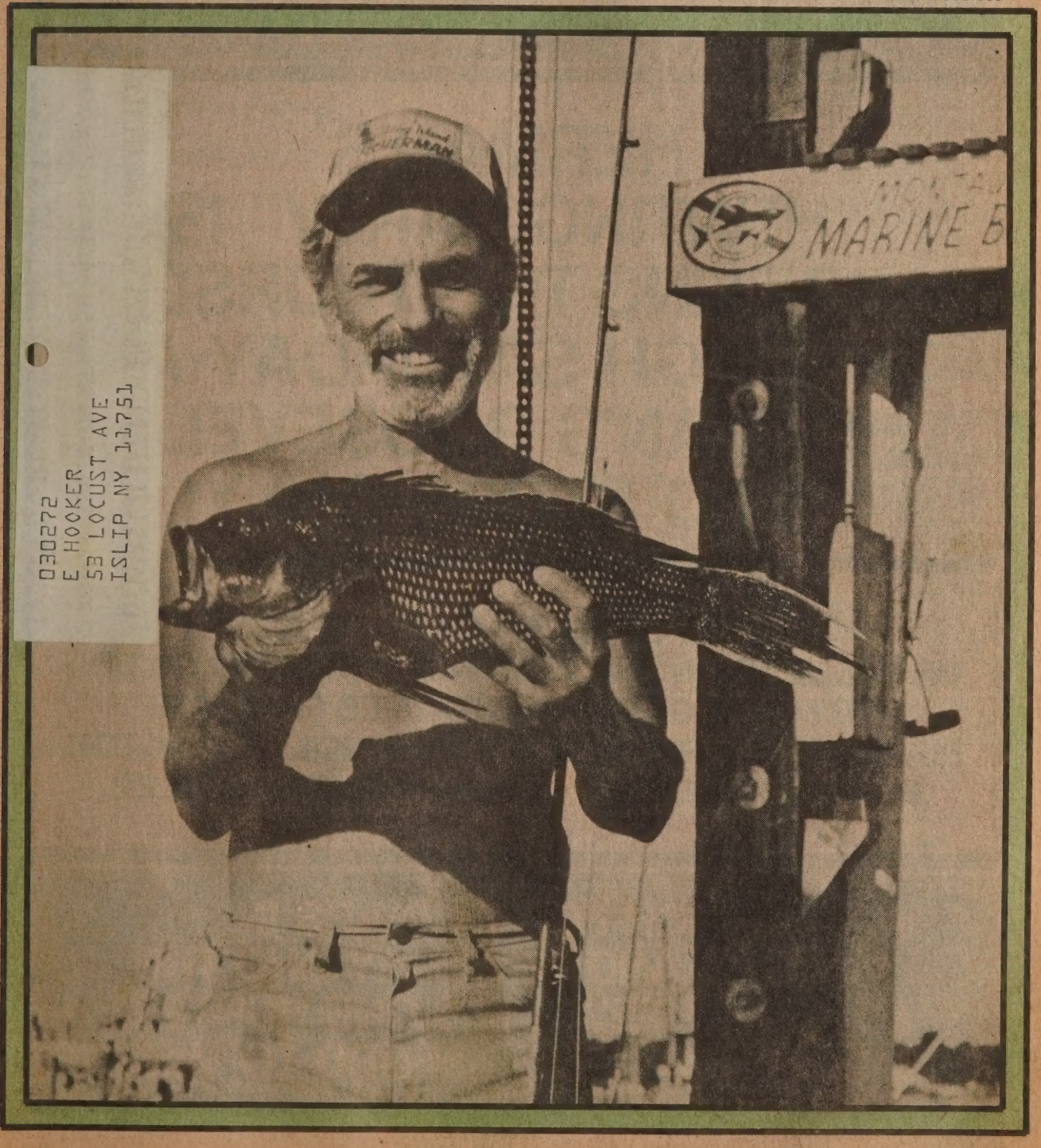

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 39 September 29th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat *Vivienne* shows the monster sea bass he caught recently at Montauk. The 6 pound, 2 ounce fish is a contender for the International Game Fish Association 16 pound class world record. It was weighed at Carl Darenberg's *Montauk Marine Basin.* Photo by Mark Jarboe.

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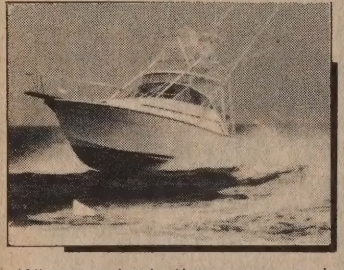
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PASS IT ON...

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE VEHICLE REGULATION CHANGES

Proposed changes to regulations were announced on July 25.

The proposed changes set limits and other changes on vehicle traffic to F.I. communities, which do not affect recreational vehicles but which are the result of meetings between these vehicle users, F.I. community associations, and the NPS with regards to recreational vehicles, the changes would:

1. End the limit of only one round trip per day which would prohibit local residents from fishing in the morning and returning that evening. This limitation, although it has been on the books since former Supt. Richard Marks put it in, had never been enforced on recreational vehicles.

2. Change the landward limit of travel on the beach from mean high water, to the toe of the dunes. This change originates from Congressman Bill Carney's wilderness bill which he put into the bill to exclude this area from wilderness in recognition of his support for mobile sportfishermen's needs.

3. Eliminates the authority of the Superintendent to establish a limit on the number of permits that will be issued for recreational vehicles. Again this authority was never used as the level of FINS use never required it. This limit authority will exist for vehicle traffic to communities and the proposed changes set limits for these vehicles. The FINS is supposed to be a national seashore for all the people of the United States. It will hardly be that if a distant visitor arrives with the intent to use this beach and finds he cannot gain access because all of the permits were issued to those "in the know." If it is used on F.I., it can be used at Gateway, Cape Cod, Cape Hatteras or elsewhere, thereby denying **you** the opportunity to use these beaches.

Those opposing the changes are especially against the changes affecting recreational vehicles. They allege that they will cause hordes of vehicles to descend on this beach, and will cause all kinds of environmental damage including erosion. They want a limit set on the number of vehicles allowed on (30 as per the FINS General Management Plan), even though the level of use has not required use of this mechanism.

Anyone who had read the scientific research on vehicle effects knows that the erosion claim is not supported by the facts and that the only area recreational vehicles are allowed to use is on the beach itself, which the scientific evidence has shown to be the most tolerant of all barrier island environments.

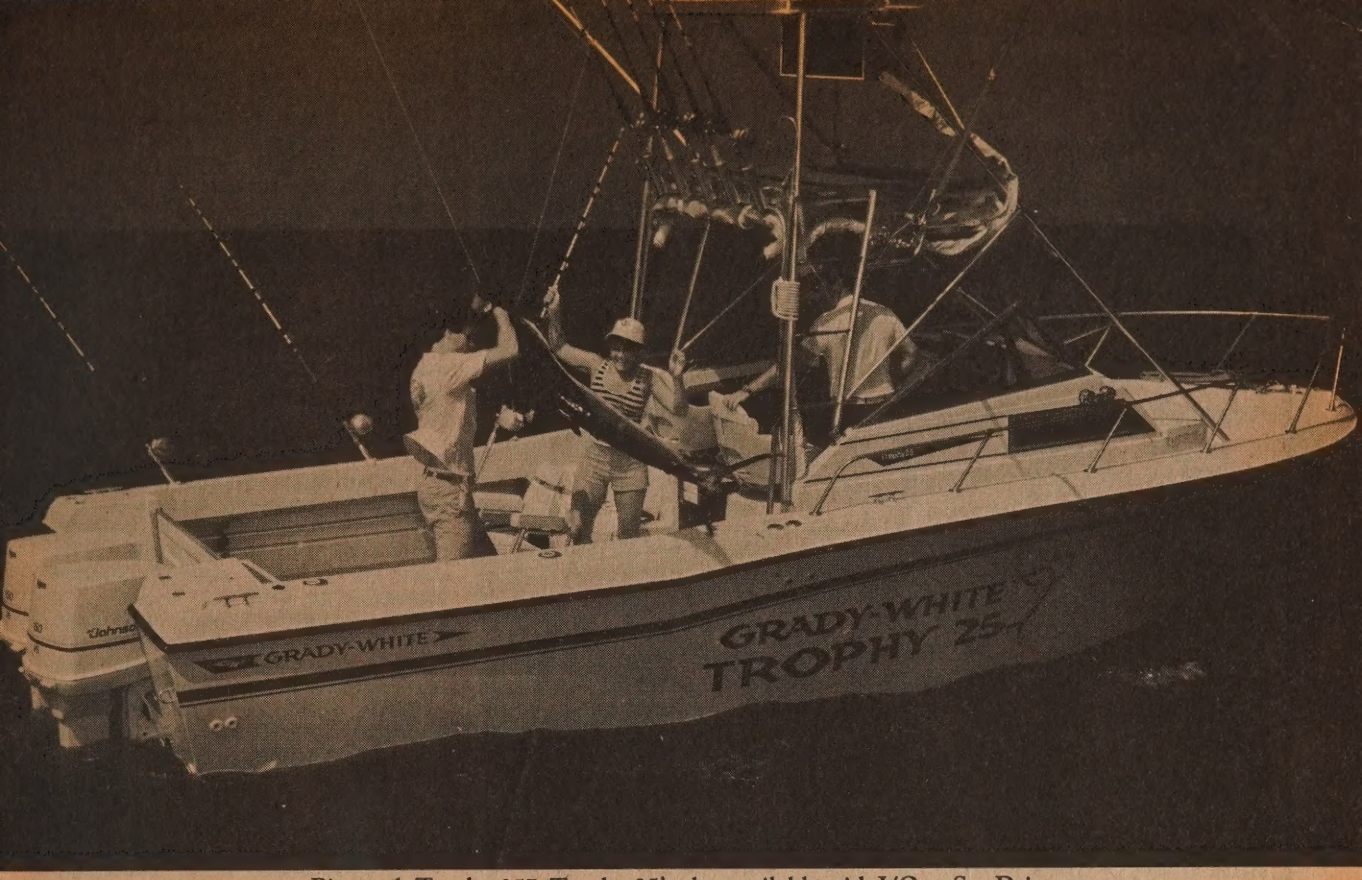
These groups want a 30 vehicle limit set because others find vehicles impair their "wilderness experience," which they can enjoy year round. If this is the case, it will deny access for the mobile sportfisherman to practice his sport in spite of the fact that the FINS law clearly says "hunting and fishing shall be allowed." They would preempt this hunting and fishing access despite the fact that fishing required access to the beach (which their recreation does not) and thus required priority considerations in case of conflict in accordance with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and the N.Y. State Coastal Management Program which implements the federal law. They insist on the imposition of a vehicle limit also because it would reduce the incidence of some vehicles driving on the dunes. They would thereby shift the burdon of any denial of access on to the overwhelming majority of the law abiding citizens who obey regulations prohibiting driving on the dunes, instead of onto those guilty of these transgressions. I can't think of a more unAmerican philosophy than this, which could set dangerous precedents in all areas of life if it were seriously considered. In my view the environmental claims are without merit and betrays an unspoken intent: to establish a defacto wilderness on the beach as well as the area behind the dunes. Understand, the LIBBA supported establishment of wilderness as provided in the bill enacted into law that was sposored by Congressman Carney. It would have been opposed without the wilderness boundary ending at the toe of the dunes. Some of the individuals now objecting to the recreational vehicle changes were the same who agreed to the wilderness boundary compromise that resulted in accomodation for all. I feel they have betrayed our trust.

You must write, write, write and call your Congressman and two Senators and tell them you want the changes adopted.

The original period for sending postcards and letters was to end August 24. Since that time objections raised by the usual groups to the three changes affecting recreational vehicle access to the FINS has caused FINS Supt. Hauptman to extend the period for writing. These groups have also appealed to your U.S. Congressmen and Senators to oppose these changes. Therefore, it is more urgent than ever that you send your cards and letters supporting the changes to:

Supt. John Hauptman
Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

To improve the environmental awareness of what harm a vehicle can do if misused, FINS will be instituting



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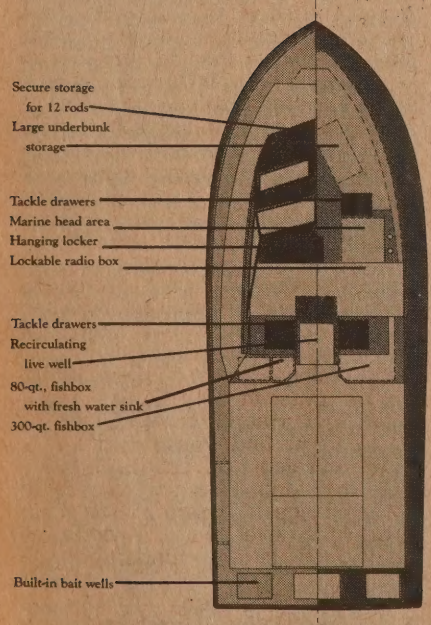

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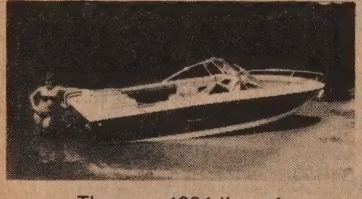

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this fall, a requirement to view a slide presentation before an applicant receives a vehicle permit. These slides were developed in cooperation between LIBBA/UMS/NPS.

Bill Miller—LIBBA

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB CONTEST RESULTS

The Moriches Bay Fluke Tournament had over 25 members fishing. Winners were: 1. Mike Scalla with a fish of 5 pounds, 2 ounces; 2. Tony Ganetics with a 3 pound, 2 ounce fish and 3. Jim Curto with a fluke of 3 pounds, 1 ounce.

All three winners were Junior members, and showed their fishing skill by competing against the Senior members and winning.

The Patchogue Fishing Club, along with the Patchogue Village Recreation Department, sponsored a Snapper Derby at the Village Dock. Over 50 kids competed for prizes and plaques and Patchogue Fishing Club hats.

The Patchogue Fishing Club Snapper Derby was held September 11 at the Mascot Dock. The following are the team winners: 1st Sarah and Gregg Maynard with 4 snappers, 2nd, Tony and Tom Ganetics with 3, and also with 3 taking 3rd was Sherri VanGinhoven and Andy Polcha.

ANTIQUE DECOY COLLECTORS SHOW

Long Island Decoy Collectors Association is sponsoring an antique decoy show on Sunday, October 2nd, 10AM to 5PM. It will be held at the American Legion Hall on Route 110 South, Park Avenue in Amityville, L.I., N.Y. Auction sale will be held at 2PM Sunday, October 2nd. Decoys, prints and memorabilia will be offered for sale. For dealer information call Ron McGrath at 516-598-3192 or George Combs at 516-264-3525.

FULL MOON STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT

The Montauk Marine Basin's 7th Annual Full Moon Striped Bass Tournament will be held this year on October 21, 22 and 23. It is expected that the fall run of bass from New England to southern latitudes will be at its peak during that full moon period.

Boating anglers and surfcasters in the tournament will be fishing for stripers (the glamor fish of the Atlantic's inshore waters) on feeding grounds from Plum Gut to south of Block Island, starting Friday, October 21, at 12 Noon. The 50-hour contest will end on Sunday, October 23, at 2:00 PM.

Cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100, will be awarded for the three heaviest fish. Trophies will be awarded to the winning surfcaster and the men's, women's and junior division winners from the fleet of boats entered. The winner of the largest fish weighed, will receive a free full mount from Fish Unlimited.

Last year's winner of the heaviest fish, was Glen Dennis of Ridge, NY with a 59½ pound tackle buster, from his boat the "Linesides". Second place went to Dennis Kelly of Sag Harbor, NY, with a 39 pound striper. And Jake Early won the third place trophy with a 38½ pound bass.

IGFA rules apply to boat anglers in the tournament, except for the allowance of wire lining and umbrella rigs for trolling. No harpooning. All anglers must register before fishing. The entry fee per angler is $15.00.

For further details concerning the tournament, please contact Carl Darenberg, Jr., at Montauk Marine Basin. 516-668-5900.

OAKDALE SPORTSMEN'S COD TOURNEY SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 12

The All Clubs Annual Invitational Codfish Tournament, hosted by the Oakdale Sportsmens Club, will be held on Saturday, November 12, 1983, with an alternate day of Sunday November 13, 1983.

The tournament is open to all clubs entering one to four boat teams. All entries will leave and enter Fire Island or Jones Inlets, weighmasters will be at Frank and Dick's Bait and Tackle in the State Boat Channel and at Hudson Point in Freeport.

Prizes will be Penn International Reels, awarded for first, second and third heaviest codfish and first, second and third total weight.

Entry fee is $60.00 per boat. Last date for entry is Thursday, November 10, 1983. For registration and further information, contact Mr. Bruce Bandes at 516-589-3330 or Mr. Charles Johnson at 516-589-7005.

EXHIBIT SPACE EXPANDED FOR BOAT SHOW

In order to accomodate exhibitor demand, both land and water exhibit space has had to be expanded for the Seventh Annual Greater New York In-The-Water Boat Show to be held at the Guy Lombardo Marina in Freeport. The marine extravaganza, which will span two weekends, including Columbus Day, is set for September 30 through October 2 and October 7 through 10 at the Town of Hempstead facility.

According to Show Director Jim Kenney, "Though previous shows have included an emphasis on both power and sail, this is the first year that such a strong focus is being directed toward sail enthusiasts at this show. Our initial exhibit space offerings were sold out by mid-July, necessitating the addition of some 14,000 square feet of land exhibit area, plus a whole new floating dock to accomodate additional water exhibits. Even at that, we are close to capacity in terms of available space both on land in in the water."

In addition to being able to view and board more than four hundred new boats, including a wide range of large and small inboard and outboard sport and fishing boats, as well as small cruising sailboats and day sailers, visitors to the in-the-water

boat show will find extensive displays of all types of marine accessories.

The Greater New York In-The-Water Boat Show is sponsored by the Marine Trades Association, Inc., in cooperation with the Freeport Chamber of Commerce, and is planned and produced by a committee of volunteers who run full-time businesses associated with boats, boating and marine supplies and accessories. Admission charge for adults will be $4, and $3 for children under 12.

Further information on the Greater New York In-The-Water Boat Show is available from the Marine Trades Association, Inc., 710 S. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst, NY 11757—516-378-6451.

MEPPS AWARD CENTER

Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle, Lindenhurst, New York, has been named official weigh station for the Mepps awards program. To enter fish taken on Mepps spinners or Spoons, fishermen must fill out an application card (available at Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle) and send it with a photo to Sheldons', Inc., Antigo, Wisconsin 54409. A colorful registration poster is on display at Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle which explains complete details including species eligible and weights. Awards are available for all fishermen, regardless of where fish are caught.

Mepps Angler Awards consist of two levels. First is the Master Angler award. This is a combination trophy patch and chevrons listing fish species. These patches can be worn on clothing or mounted in a trophy case. With the first qualifying catch, the fisherman receives a colorful trophy fish award patch and a chevron for the fish caught. When the fourth different species of qualifying fish is entered, the fisherman earns a Mepps Master Angler patch and an attractive Grand Slam of Fishing certificate.

After four different fish are caught and a Master Angler status is attained, a fisherman is in line for the top Mepps honor; Expert Angler. To show your fishin' prowess, catch 10 different species of fish which meet qualification standards. Earning an expert patch puts you in a league with the most distinguished fishermen. For more information contact Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle or Sheldons', Inc., CS 508, Antigo, Wisconsin, 54409-0508.

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—FLOUNDER—
MORICHES STYLE

by William A. Muller

The fall flounder season around these parts gets started early and ends...

It was quite an unusual fall in many ways. The weather was mild, the winds most often light, and except for a few days, it was dry as well. Fishing was great because of the weather, and many of us will savor the memories of the fall of 1982 for many years.

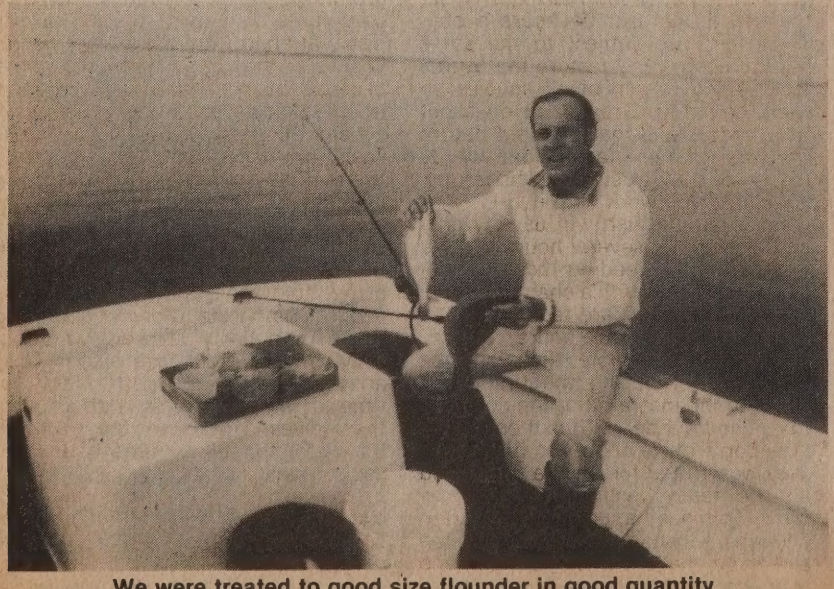
I couldn't believe it. Here it was December 9th and I'm flounder fishing in my shirt sleeves with Nick Castoro of the Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station on Moriches Bay. We caught plenty of flounder, too.

But let me backtrack. I quit the surf fishing around November 19th and although in retrospect I may have given up too soon, I had had enough of arm-bruising bluefish. When the weather stayed mild, I realized I had a chance at some fall flounder to fill the freezer for the long winter. I've known Nick for a few years now, and right from the start, I was impressed with him as a warm and kind human being. I called him up and asked if I could rent a skiff. He was closed for the season, but said why not come out with him and fish on his boat. Well, I couldn't resist that chance. We had a delightful day with plenty of fillets to stock both our freezers.

The story of last December isn't the real story about Moriches Bay flounder fishing, but does serve to make the point that flounder fishing in the bay can be good throughout a long season. I wouldn't recommend fishing flounder in December in Moriches Bay for several reasons. First, and most important, the weather often turns cold before Thanksgiving and the fish are in the mud by December 1st. Second, because of the typical weather patterns and waning interest late in the season by fishermen, many liveries are closed by then. Third, it can be tough to get bait that late in the year.

However, you need not fish so late. Fishing for flounder typically gets started in March and in some years, very good fishing occurs in March. Most amazing of all, it is not unusual for the flounder fishing to hold up well into the summer in Moriches the way it has in this hot summer of 1983.

However, this article is about fall flounder fishing; so let's get to it. Actually, the fall fishing is very similar to the spring action. It isn't unusual for the fish to favor worms in the summer, but the mussels and clam baits rise to prominence again in the fall. Bank mussels are a little harder to come by in the fall, but they are available if you look for them.



We were treated to good size flounder in good quantity.

Many liveries and bait and tackle dealers stock them as a matter of course around Moriches because of their popularity. Still, I believe in the ounce of prevention theory. Therefore, I suggest calling ahead first rather than be suprised on the day of your fishing trip. It is always wise to know where and when you can buy the baits of your choice; that your boat and motor are reserved, and something about which tidal phase has been producing best in recent days.

Have your rigs ready ahead of time, too. I like the tandem hook rig that is made with two standard snelled flounder hooks. Chestertowns or Sproats, take your pick; both catch well. Take the leader of one hook and bend it over to form a loop at the midway point in the leader. Push this loop through the end loop of the leader of the second hook. Now push the hook and end loop ends from the first hook through its own mid-leader loop that protrudes from the end loop of the second leader. Pull tight. Now make an overhand knot with the leader ends of the first hook and pull tight. This tandem rig is used without hardware and can be attached to the main line in several ways. You can tie a dropper loop in the main line several inches above the sinker and attach the end loop of the first hook leader to this dropper loop. You can also slide an egg sinker up the main line, tie a snap and swivel to the end of the line and then add the tandem hook rig. In recent years many flounder fishermen have adopted the habit of using a fish finder rig. The main line is pushed through a plastic sleeve on the fish finder. A snap is attached to the end of the main line. The tandem hooks are added to the snap and the sinker is added onto the metal loop under the plastic sleeve. There are many variations and it seems that each new place I fish I come upon new ways to rig for flounder. There is an element of this rigging that most flounder sharpies agree on and that's to avoid the hardware.

Perhaps avoiding the use of hardware is most important in the spring when there will be more seaweed than during other seasons. The hardware attracts the seaweed it seems which, in turn, will build up until the baits

are obscured. Many flounder fishermen still prefer spreaders and the like and that fact must also be pointed out.

Bring along a chum pot or two if you have to. I always fish for flounder with a chum pot, no matter where I'm fishing. It is rare, indeed, that you can get away without chumming nowadays. Free distribution of chum does attract fish, but it also feeds them. Unless the area is absolutely stinking with fish (in which case you didn't need chum in the first place), free distribution will allow the fish to fill up on the chum and what might have been a full tide of good fishing peters out prematurely. Put the chum in the pot where it will attract without feeding the fish and put the fish in the boat. That's a good motto to follow. Although I prefer clams and mussels, all crushed up, for chum, almost anything that a flounder might eat will work. There is the cat food clique, the dog food group, and the ground-up leftovers devotees. Whatever your use—chum for best results.

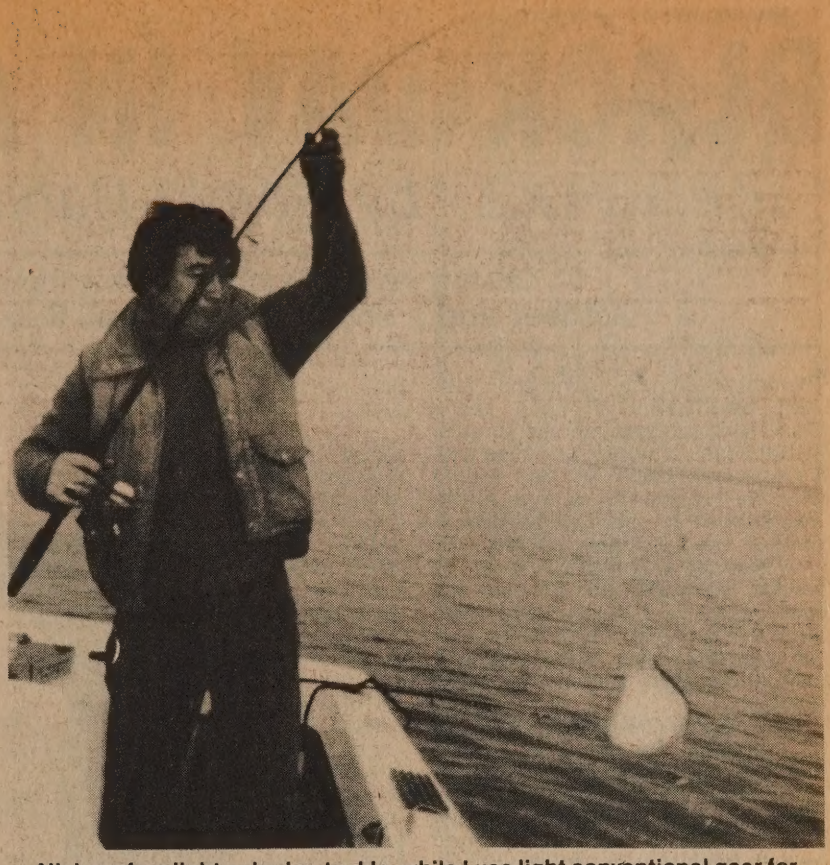
Don't be stingy with the baits. Bigger flounder like long flowing baits that undulate and tease them. Often these big fish are not as quick to jump on a bait as their younger relatives are. The idea then is to tantalize them and offer a bait that is simply too good to be refused.

Rods and reels should be light—whether spinning or conventional. I prefer light conventionals, but spinning can be lots of fun, too, especially in Moriches where the water is shallow. In the deeper waters of East End ports, spinning can be a great inconvenience; but in Moriches the eight to twelve foot depths typically fished favor all light tackle. In shallow water, heavy tackle will tend to overpower the fish and in many cases, you may be able to lift them right out of the water without turning the reel's handle. On the other hand, with light tackle the fish will put up a better show and there's more sport.

Perhaps the most important consideration in a piece intended to get people into good flounder fishing in Moriches Bay in the fall, should be the "where-to" information. Nick prefers to think of the Bay in two parts: the east bay and the west bay. Where you fish will likely depend more upon weather conditions and where you launch from than on an abundance of fish.

If the wind is blowing, Nick sees a real need to duck in under the wind. Strong winds not only make the fishing uncomfortable, but also stirs up the bottom and puts the fish off their feed. Nick suggests fishing in Harts Cove out in the east bay and Forge River down in the west bay. Again, he emphasizes that heavy chumming is necessary to attract quantities of fish to the boat. The fish may run a little smaller in these sheltered waters, but the action can be fast.

If the weather is calm, he suggests fishing in the open bay. For those to the east he suggests fishing inside buoy 42, while those in the western portion of the bay are advised to fish inside buoy 29. Incidentally, blue claw crabs may be an added bonus to the early fall flounder fisherman. Thus, it might be wise to bring along a scoop net and an extra bucket to handle the crabs with minimum difficulty.



Nick prefers light spinning tackle, while I use light conventional gear for flounder. Both work great in Moriches Bay.

Nick offered some other sage advice. He insisted on the importance of this advice for Moriches Bay, but we believe it is important everywhere. In spite of the fact that Moriches Bay is called the flat fisherman's paradise, the fish do not eat 24 hours a day. These fish are subject to the same natural controlling factors that affect the feeding of fish of all species all over the world. True, man does not fully understand the complete nature or action of these factors, but we do recognize they exist. Good fishermen know this and work with it.

For example, fish will usually only feed heavily for several hours and the start of their feeding activity will usually coincide with a change in tidal activity. If the fish are feeding on the top two or three hours of the incoming, for example, then you'll be up against it during the first three hours of the incoming or the outgoing tide. The flounder will be there, since they don't move about too much, but they won't feed for all the chum and all the fancy techniques you may offer. This has happened to me often enough. I can recall bouncing the sinker on the backs of flounder and catching none. Then when the tide hit the right stage—all hell broke loose!

This is important. Many fishermen like to get out on the water at dawn. Often that approach works well, but let's consider the following realistic scenario. High tide is 10AM. In the last five days, the flounder have been actively feeding during the first two hours of the outgoing and then the fishing tapers off to a steady pick during the third hour of the tide. Let's consider two fishing parties. The first group hits the water at dawn, catches only three fish and is back at the livery at about ten. The livery owner suggests they get back out there because this is prime time. The party is bored, however. Bored in fishing is a hard thing to turn around. One is easily convinced that the fish aren't there. The second party called the livery owner the day before, made sure a boat and motor would be waiting, inquired about bait, and then discussed the fishing. The livery owner told the fisherman about the active feeding stage of the tide, and the fishing party showed up about 9AM. No need to lose sleep. They arrived rested, and with plenty of time to set up the boat and organize themselves. The result: they were on the water for three prime hours and caught plenty of fat flounder.

One last tip from Nick. Red-dyed clams are super baits for flounder in Moriches. Most places carry them and Nick says try it, you'll like it.

BLACK DAY IN AUTUMN

by Gerald Hahn

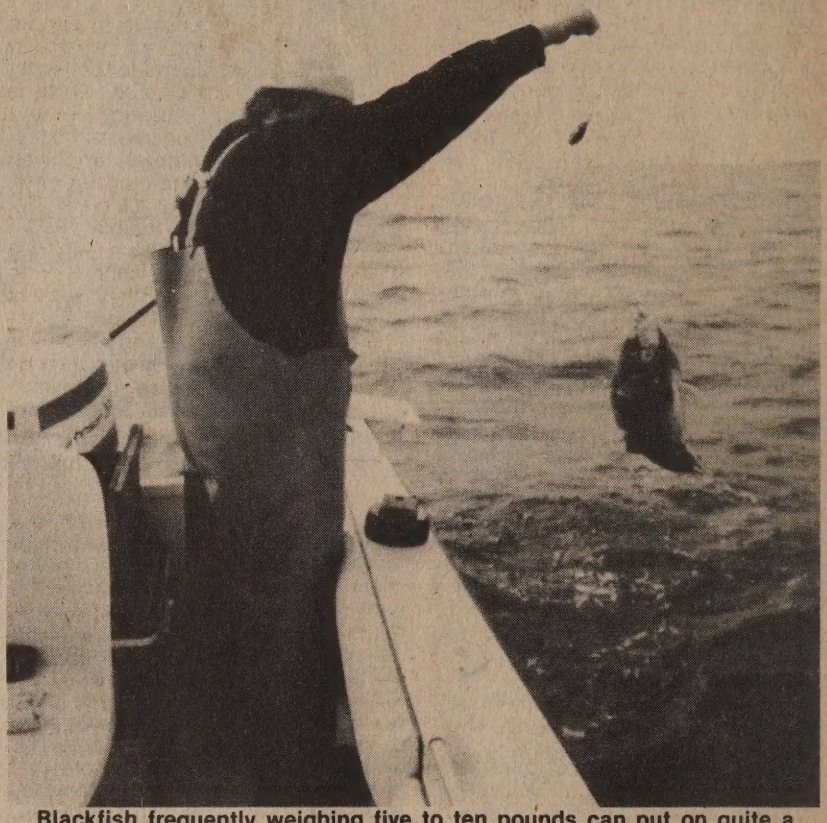
Tautog fans anxiously await the arrival of October and a shot at Long Island Sound "bulldogs."

The first autumn my friend and I ever went blackfishing on Long Island Sound was not especially memorable, for although our bucket brimmed with a respectable catch, we had caught only one five pound specimen. When we returned to the fishing station, however, we were soon drooling with envy: blackfish weighing 5 to 12 pounds were scattered all over the dock, ready for filleting. Until then, blackfishing hadn't impressed me, but ever since that black autumn I head to the north shore for outsized blackfish.

It's a shame more fishermen don't do the same. Perhaps they have a blue autumn on their minds. Then again, some say that blackfish are so grotesque, they are seldom seen even in fish markets. Like an outsized bergall, the blackfish has nasty buck-teeth and a slimy hide that makes scaling futile. Add on a pot belly for good measure, game fish anglers say. Yet beneath that ugly exterior is a chunky white meat as sweet as a cream-filled chocolate eclair, for the blackfish is a gourmet who dines on the most elegant seafood: lobster, shrimp, crab, clam and mussel.

Even so, many fishermen consider the blackfish not worth pursuing, a pain in the "wrasse." Of all fishermen in the Northeast, perhaps Rhode Islanders are the most dedicated blackfish anglers. "T'tog," they fondly call the fish. The Rhode Island coast, studded with scarred rocks and cool water, obtain ideal conditions for a long blackfishing season from May to November. Long Island's north shore has a similar terrain to Rhode Island's, but the water is too warm in the summer for productive blackfishing, and consequently, there are two relatively brief runs in the spring and fall. Of the two, the fall blackfish run is longer and more consistent; the large fish getting under way in early September and remaining inshore as late as December. Blackfish specialists regard late-October and early-November as the prime period.

Fishermen who spurn blackfish also say that getting any action from a hooked specimen is like trying to remove an old water-logged boot. Neither one budges. Although a blackfish will neither run nor leap, its stubborn nature is matched by a strength that puts a weakfish, and even a striped bass, to shame. Blackfish are one of the most difficult fish to hook and play. The old boot relies on suction to resist removal; the blackfish relies on its rocky abode.



Blackfish frequently weighing five to ten pounds can put on quite a show.

No wonder, then, that Long Island Sound is the blackfish's favorite residence. For about 80 miles, from City Island to Orient Pt., the Sound's glacial remains, scoured by two advances of the Labrador ice sheet during the Pleistocene period, are everywhere in evidence—boulders on top, boulders below, like black icebergs floating ominously on a primordial sea. In the west end, for example, Execution Rocks, Old Hen and Matinecock Pt., are all well-known blackfish haunts. The Lloyd Pt. to Eaton's Neck area is loaded with rocks named Target, and with wrecks and other obstructions blackfish find to their taste. Heading to the mid-Island region, Crab Meadow, Sunken Meadow, Crane Neck and Old Field Pt., harbor blackfish of all sizes. At Old Field, just west of Port Jefferson, the fish are spread out from a surf-caster's reach at the lighthouse to the sunken rocks more than a mile from shore. Man-made rubble reefs abound at Shoreham and Roanoke, where two pipelines extend for several hundred yards into the Sound, and attract party boat and small craft anglers looking for bulldog blackfish. In-between the pipelines the sharp boulders off Wildwood's east end are littered with snagged rigs and huge blackfish. In the east end, Cooper's Rock and the Oregon Hills, near Mattituck, are well-known blackfish producers. So are the rocks off Rocky Pt. and Mulford Pt., the Sound's last outcroppings, and the north side of Orient's lighthouse. Beyond, the north side of Plum Island is studded with boulders and blackfish as well.

Yet in spite of the Sound's abundant rocky hotels, few large blackfish make reservations in the fall. The fish are hard to locate and only a few are taken in the course of a day. However, when one considers that these bulldogs weigh 5 to over 10 lbs., the effort is certainly worthwhile.

Dedicated blackfish anglers favor rental skiffs or private craft although other people board party boats in the fall. No matter what kind of boat they choose, all blackfish anglers use stout fishing tackle: eight foot spinning rods with thick tips and large surf reels filled with 20 or 30 lb. test. Conventional rods and Penn 65s filled with up to 40 lb. test are used by party boat and skiff fishermen alike.

Blackfish anglers use only one kind of hook for this species: a blued Virginia, with a hollow offset point and a short bite, designed specifically for the blackfish's small tough mouth and for the hard baits it relishes. Size 4, 5 or 6 hooks, snelled on 12 inch leaders of 40 lb. test, are the right size for large blackfish.

When blackfish come in mixed sizes, anglers use two-hook rigs tied in tandem or hi-lo fashion. Tandem rigs are made by tying the two snelled leaders together, the looped end of one to the middle of the other. A dropper loop on the main line, three to six inches above an end loop for the sinker, secures the hooks. Hi-lo rigs are fashioned with two droppers on the main line, the bottom hook three inches above the sinker and the top hook about 13 inches above the first. Bank sinkers weighing 3 to 10 ounces are employed during the fall's erratic weather. Curiously, Rhode Island's snagless sinkers, flat as a coin, are seldom used in Long Island. When large blackfish predominate, a single hook rig is the most effective, since the fish are seldom caught in pairs, and snags, moreover, are considerably reduced. In really rough terrain, a 40 lb. test leader on a barrel swivel should be used for any of the rigs mentioned. Needless to say, the serious blackfisherman is well stocked with rigs.

Although blackfish are attracted to such soft baits as seaworms and clams, their appetites are best aroused when crabs are on the menu. Fiddler crabs and green crabs are widely used along the north shore. Fiddlers are lively little crabs, thumbnail-sized and easy to rig. Simply hook one or two of them through the tail section of break off the large claw of the male fiddler and insert the hook point through the socket and out the side. Green crabs, though sluggish, are larger than fiddlers, and the largest are generally quartered or halved. Some anglers leave the crab's shell and claws intact and insert the hook through the shell and into the flesh; others peel away the hard exterior, which exposes a chunk of white meat, and insert the hook in one claw socket and out another. I find that the smallest green crabs, fished alive and rigged the same way as fiddlers, are the most effective. In the east end, however, blackfish specialists would disagree; they claim that the largest blackfish dine on hermit crabs. Though expensive, hermit crabs have one advantage over the others, and that is, a combination of hardness and softness: a crusty forepart and a soft abdomen that extends to the rear like a tail. The crab must first be evicted from the shell it has borrowed, however, by carefully breaking it with a block of wood. Then the crab's large claws and legs are removed, and the hook is inserted through the hard front section and into the spongy abdomen, the part blackfish relish most.

Fishing for blackfish is in certain respects like fishing for weakfish: both require considerable patience, even around a tidal change, which is the best period. Locating proper terrain over rocks or mussel beds, anchoring for 20 minutes, and then moving a few feet and starting over, may take hours without a sign of life. Some fishermen drift for blackfish—small ones will take a drifting bait—and then set the anchor. Having located the small fish, they reason, large ones may soon follow. Chumming would seem to be another way to locate blackfish, but they do not range very far from their choice sites. Nonetheless, I make a small collection of discarded crab pieces and chum with them. The "crab slick" attracts the quicker, more aggressive runts, which, in turn, may attract the bulldogs. Whether by design or chance, I've located blackfish this way more than once.

The baited rig, lowered to the bottom, should be held absolutely still, as when fishing for cod. Blackfish are easily spooked by dancing crabs. Small blackfish signal their arrival by pecking rapidly at the bait. If nothing follows, reel in and replace the stolen offering. When the taps are followed by a sudden downward jolt, however, raise the rod instantly and retrieve line quickly, otherwise the fish will hang you up on the rocks. Large blackfish dispense with the preliminaries, and consequently are easier to hook. A slow pull on the line, a tautog-of-war, ensues, and this is your signal to set the hook instantly. When the fish surfaces, use a large landing net. Gaffing an armor-plated bulldog is futile.

Skiff rental stations on the Sound are not as plentiful as on the south shore. However, boats are available at City Island, Kings Park, Port Jefferson, Mt. Sinai, Mattituck and Orient Pt. Check the weather beforehand, for many stations will not let you go out in rough weather, and the fall is marked by strong northeasters. Party boats going for blackfish head out of City Island, New Rochelle, Glen Cove, Huntington, Port Jefferson and Greenport.

If you've had your fill of colorful blues this autumn, try an autumn in black and white.

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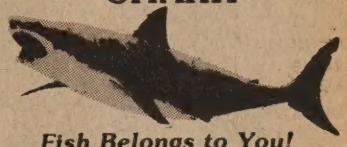

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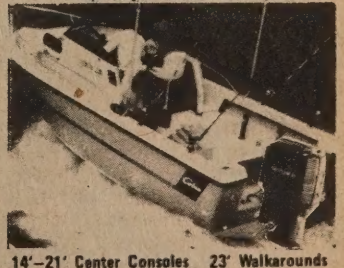

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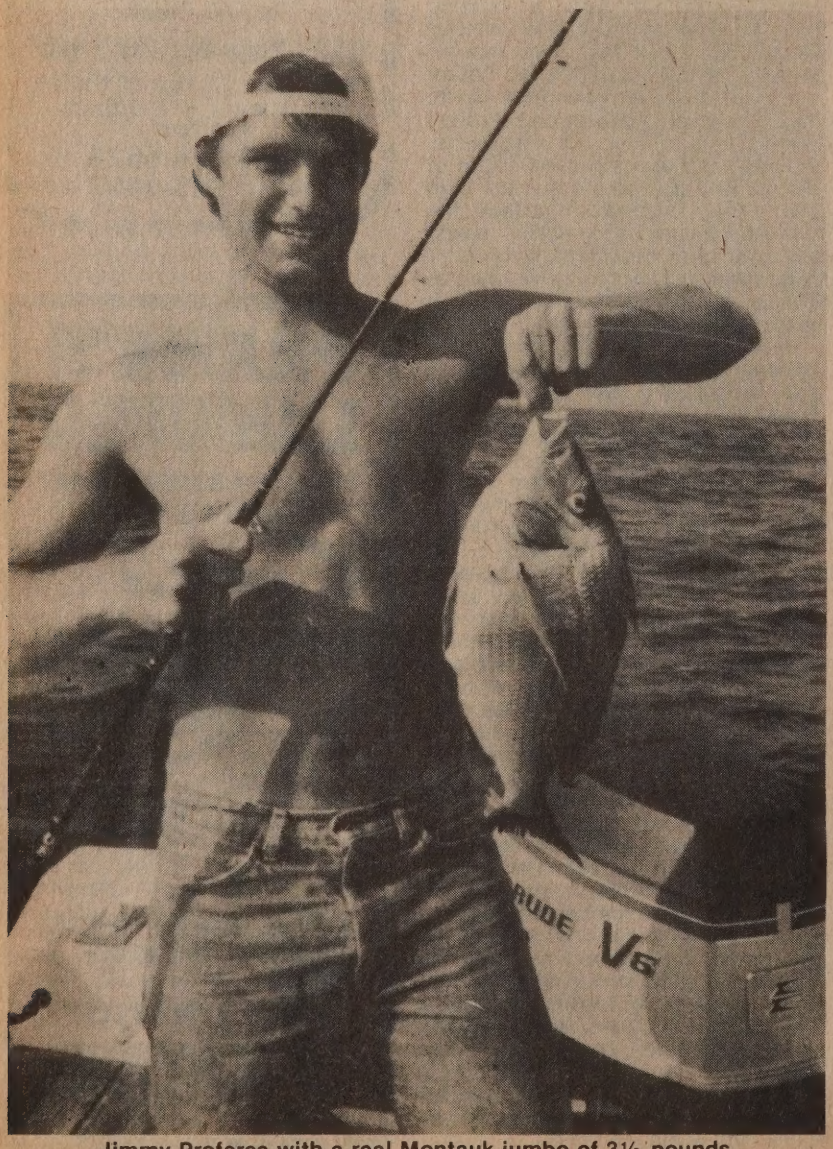
PORGIES, PORGIES AND MORE PORGIES!

by Al Ristori

Late September through early October is prime time for Montauk porgy fans to fill the freezer.

One of my fondest memories as a youngster was of renting a boat and motor in Sheepshead Bay and running out to the Tin Can Grounds for porgies. I had heard the fishing was very good and talked my good buddy, Bill McGuiness into giving it a try. Despite our total lack of competence in porgy fishing and uncertainty about where to drop the hook, we soon had sea porgies flying and the burlap bag quickly filled up with the biggest porgies we'd ever seen. Unfortunately, that porgy fishery and all others in the New York Bight have died out over the years, with only a few hand-sized fish showing up each year. Therefore, it's hard for those who haven't experienced it to believe just how many porgies there are in the Montauk rips early each fall.



Jimmy Proferes with a real Montauk jumbo of 3½ pounds.

Though I'm no real porgy addict, I do enjoy fishing for the scup a few times each year. This fishing can be very good around Montauk in the summer, though it is up and down. However, by mid- or late-September it's usually so hot that even the amateurs (like Yours Truly) can do a number on them. It's not just a question then of resident fish, but also the untold numbers of porgies moving out of Long Island Sound, Peconic and Gardiner's Bays, and all other points to the north and west.

If last year was any indication, the last week in September and first in October are just the right times to be at Montauk for the last surge. I only fished porgies a couple of times around that period last year, but each occasion was a blitz despite the fact that I was using frozen clams (a "real" porgy fisherman would never do that!) and had hardly any chum.

The first time I took my Mako 21 to the point I had just some frozen clams and a couple of bricks of chum as I planned to do a variety of things. Basically, I figured on trying the porgies on the slack water and then going to jigging. The wind was supposed to be northeast, but only 10 to 15 mph. It was northeast all right, though 25 to 30 was more like the speed. Boats were coming back as I was going out, but I didn't realize how nasty it was getting until I was already anchored. By that time the tide was starting out and I didn't have any desire to fight the seas created by that nor'easter up against the tide in order to get back to port. Since the waves slapping against the bow were creating spray, I had to fish in rain gear, but none of this stopped the porgies—they bit their fool heads off all day long, tide or no tide, chum or no chum!

I was going through bait so fast that every so often I pulled the empty chum pot just to throw in some frozen clams to defrost. These weren't even good frozen clams and it was hard to keep anything besides the muscle around the edge of the shell on the hook. Nevertheless, the doubles and triples kept coming—despite the fact that the anchor pulled three times,

each time moving me to deeper water. Then there was the swinging with the wind as the tide slacked and the boat hanging off in another direction when the flood started. Through all that the porgies kept on hitting, and I left them biting even before the tide started getting strong.

The next day was just about as bad and I decided to take a break by porgy fishing on the Viking Starship. I figured a 140 footer was a bit more suitable for those sea conditions. The sort of weather we had could really put a damper on the fishing in the summer as a party boat can't just anchor up and fish through a strong tide as a private boat might do. Therefore, they usually anchor around the slack and drift on the running tide. However, drifting is no fun in a heavy sea. Despite all the problems, everyone aboard loaded up, and Captain Paul Forsberg, Jr. also gave us a bonus of some sea bass from Frisby's off the south shore of Montauk. The mate was even luckier as he boated a 12 pound weakfish in the morning that apparently grabbed a "pin" porgy.

After putting in some night striper fishing time, I wasn't in any shape for porgy fishing the next day. However, it turned out to be so beautiful that I had to at least give it a couple of hours. Despite the fact that lots of boats were fishing around Great Eastern, the results were the same. To be sure, these weren't the jumbo porgies for which Montauk is noted at times. They were mostly 3/4 pound and pound size scup, with some up to 1½ pounds—and one lone 2¼ pound jumbo. Indeed, I threw back quite a few of those hand-sized fish which are prized to the west.

Variety-wise, there wasn't much—which is quite normal in the rips. The mussel bottom doesn't attract rock dwellers like blackfish and bergalls, but there are a few sea bass and there's often a bit of a problem with sea robins and skates—though that doesn't usually occur when the porgies are hot.

Ideally, you should be properly rigged for this fishing—which includes fresh clams and lots of frozen ground chum. Ground clam or clam bellies makes the best chum, but bunker will do. This summer I tried Preferred Chum, a dried fish product that comes in a milk-like container. It puts out a good scent and seemed to help. The way the fishing was last September, it didn't seem to make much difference where you set in or what you did. However, you can't count on that sort of fishing. When it's a bit picky, the local experts will demonstrate that there is, indeed, quite a bit to porgy fishing.

Among the things you'll need to fish this area are a chum pot with additional weights and lots of line. When the tide starts roaring, particularly around new and full moon periods, the chum pot will not be under the boat! I did discover a better way a few years when I left my Penn

Sheri and Mike Ristori struggle to hold up daddy's big porgies.

It's usually easy to catch porgies around slack water and you may think you're going to load the boat at the rate you're going. However, reality sets in when the tide starts steaming. The pros can often continue to pick by using the very light lines, or they may move to another area with a lighter tide. Being out there everyday is a big advantage in deciding what to do under these circumstances. Porgies are usually lightly hooked and many are lost while being reeled in during a heavy tide. Slow and steady is the key phrase for cutting down on such losses.

A lot of the hassle and preparation involved with porgy fishing can be avoided by simply taking a party boat. This has become the most popular form of party boating at Montauk and you can choose from the 100-foot Viking Starlite (the Starship may also be used if weekend crowds require it), the Marlin IV, the Flying Cloud and Little Bear. All leave around 6AM. Captain Bud Dorman, who used to run the Viking Skipper for porgies, now has a six-man open boat (Waxed) that does a real job by being able to locate on small lumps and chum. Bud takes reservations, but will accept additional anglers at the dock if there is space available. Naturally, he charges more—but it's well worth it. A few charter boats also work at this fishery. Captain Ron Grandinetti is a porgy specialist with his Julie III, and Captain Johnny DeMaio also enjoys taking porgy parties on the Vivienne.

If you want to get into old time porgy fishing, give the early fall run at Montauk Point a try. It won't last much longer, but you shouldn't have any trouble filling the freezer.

downrigger in its holder after using it the previous day. Looking at it there, it suddenly occured to me that this would be the ideal chum pot retriever. Not only does the downrigger take the sweat and strain out of raising the pot, but it also eliminates tangles in the line coiled on deck and keeps the pot closer to the boat since the cable cuts through the water instead of creating a drag.

Though you'll only be fishing in 30 to 60 feet of water, it's important to have a good anchor and chain so you don't drift off a productive spot. Finding your own honey hole may take some time while you search around with a graph recorder. Porgies show up very well on my Lowrance X-15 and it usually doesn't take long to find a concentration of my own. Getting back on them and holding the fish may be another matter.

Hooking porgies is an art that must be acquired. When they're thick even the worst fishermen catch their share. At other times they can be very tough. I once took a young nephew out who had proved to be a good angler when it came to jigging blues or casting to weakfish. However, he just couldn't hook the first porgy. Fishing side-by-side, I caught 20 while he was shut out. Since then he's gotten the knack and now "puts a hurting" on his uninitiated friends. Just as in freshwater fishing, a very sensitive touch is needed and that makes heavy tackle impractical. The pros often use light mono or dacron in the rips both for the feel and to hold bottom with reasonable sinkers during a strong tide.

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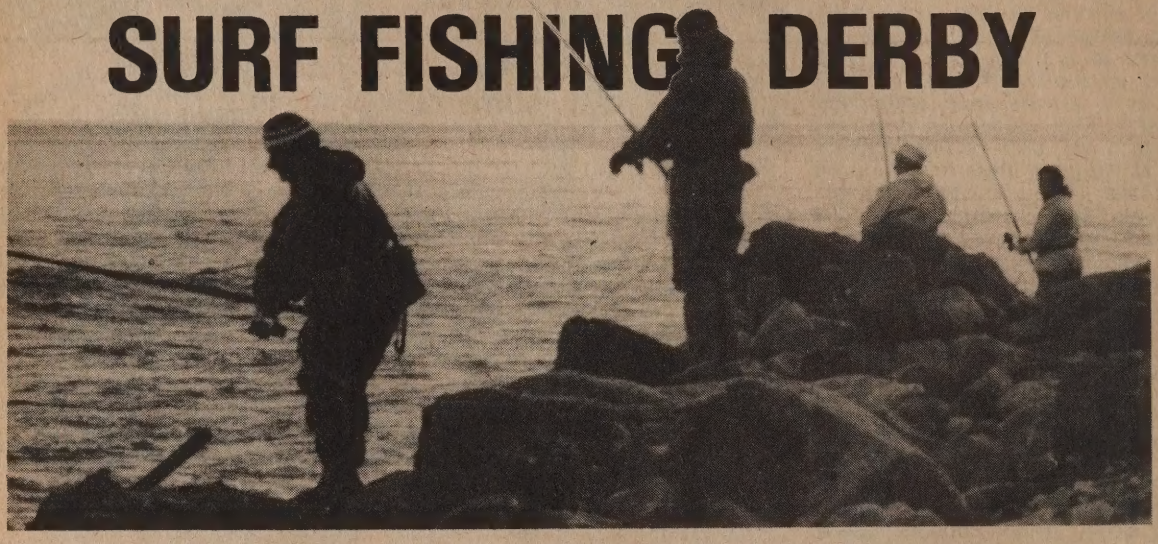

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MORICHES' TWIN BEACHES

by John Fritz

Nearly thirteen miles of productive, sand beach offer the buggy equipped surfman numerous opportunities.

One of the few areas remaining on Long Island where a beach buggy can fulfill the role for which it was initially intended is along the shores adjacent to Smith's Point. Surf fishermen working this shoreline have 13 miles of open beach, interrupted approximately in the center by a no vehicle section, where they can pursue schools of migrating fish or leap-frog their way up and down the beach until they become arm-weary. In a style reminiscent of by-gone years or more readily seen along the East End shore, dozens of mobilized fishing machines can be found cruising the water's edge, their occupants intently studying the ocean's surface for any sign that would indicate the presence of fish. With a spray of bait, a gathering of gulls, or a suspicious splash, these odd-looking machines, with exaggerated fishing rods mounted at the ready in bumper holders, jerk to a halt as its occupants spill from the interior and rush to the water's edge.

The scene described in the opening paragraph is just one of several possibilities likely to transpire when extensive expanses of shoreline are available to mobile sport fishermen. I could just as readily portray a throng of buggies scattered about the beach with their occupants lined up thigh-deep in the surf frantically casting lures into a cluster of screeching gulls. When no visible signs of fish can be detected, conscientious anglers will work their way along the waterfront plugging likely looking areas. With the mobility gained by having a generally unrestricted beach, coupled with the opportunity to spend extended periods of time within the comforts of your vehicle, the likelihood of sharing in some portion of the hectic fall run is greatly enhanced.

Teen size blues were a regular occurrence on the National Seashore last fall.

In order to achieve total access to the entire beach in question, it is necessary to obtain permits from two separate agencies. The eastern six miles of beach lies under the jurisdiction of Suffolk County Department of Parks, with permits issued to residents of Suffolk County who are in possession of a current Leisure Pass. The area which lies to the west of the Smith Point Bridge is part of the Fire Island National Seashore for which a free buggy permit may be secured at the Ranger Station situated alongside the buggy track which leads to the beach. With each governmental agency, certain regulations are essential for our continued vehicular access to these priceless beaches. Anglers unfortunate enough to be without the privilege of owning a beach buggy may not be able to make use of this entire shoreline, but they are not completely shut out. The shoreline directly seaward from the parking lot has proven to be a productive area for both plug casters and bait fishermen alike. This segment of the beach is the exclusive domain of the walk-on fishermen. In order to drive from the Federal property to the County beach one must leave the beach at the designated checkpoint and be re-

(Continued on next page.)

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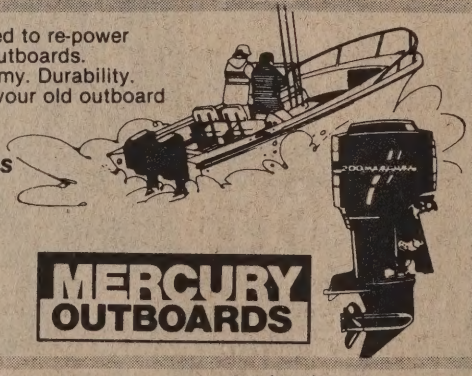

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(See page 14 for details)

MONTAUK STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH SURF FISHING DERBY!

admitted to Smiths Point by the County Rangers. Needless to say the reverse procedure must be followed is traveling in the opposite direction.

The beach vehicle travel restrictions in force at the present time are the result of countless hours of discussion between the concerned governmental agencies and the hard-working members of LIBBA and UMS. Each year, it is a recurring battle to prevent further restrictions from being imposed and to request to have detrimental current regulations altered in a manner beneficial to surf fishermen. Vehicular travel on the ocean beaches is constantly being monitored by friend and foe alike; therefore, it behooves us to conduct ourselves, at all times, in a manner which will only bring credit to the mobile sport fishermen.

Nature's normal pattern is to wash out large sections of the waterfront during fierce winter storms and replenish these same beaches under the gentle influence of the summer's southerly winds. While it is true that one extraordinary storm can change the formation of an entire coastline overnight, rapid changes are the exception rather than the rule. Smart surfmen take the time to study the beach, making note of sluiceways, troughs, sand bars, or pockets which they feel offer the best chance of attracting and holding fish. It has been stated so often in the past, but it requires repeating again, that the ideal time in which to study a beach and select the most likely looking areas is during the daylight hours at a time when the tide is at its lowest ebb. It would be difficult to commit to memory the most promising features along 13 miles of beach much less pick out these spots at night or when many signs are obliterated by high water. Cape Cod anglers and other fishermen who pursue their sport over wide ranging stretches of shoreline will either make notes of pertinent landmarks or place markers to indicate locations worthy of attention later on. A favorite marking technique used along the vast reaches of the Cape is to pinpoint the likely locations by jamming marked sticks into the sand—not just anywhere on the beach, but along the foot of the dunes where they are less visible to the casual observer. This practice is not nearly so important on Fire Island for it only takes a few trips to the area to ascertain the better locations. It is newcomers to the region who should use any method practical to learn the area as fast as possible.

Even with all the promising areas committed to memory, this unprotected shore can be changed overnight by the ravages of a severe coastal storm. For instance, the beach at Old Inlet, a short distance west of the Seashore entry point, is occasionally impassable at times of high water. This, in effect, blocks off approximately six miles of beach west of the cut. A set of circumstances which seems to inhibit ready access to most

of the shore westward to Long Cove. In reality the buggy operator would have to wait beyond the washout until the tide has fallen to a point where it would be safe to make the crossing or he would have to return to the eastern side before the rising tide makes passage impossible. The latter move is not really a mistake because excellent fishing can be found from Old Inlet to the buggy cut entrance for those using either bait or slinging tin.

During the height of the run last fall, when monster bluefish could be had at almost any point along the entire shore, the most productive method, and of course the most simple method, was to sling heavyweight tins into a surf stirred up by a moderate southerly wind. Fish boxes were filled to overflowing and then some, a practice not really so well accepted by older surfmen who remember the lean years when bluefish approaching 20 pounds were exceptional. The pattern which evolved during the period that I worked the Seashore with my partner Bill was that most of the fish were squidded during the early morning hours with all artificial activity dwindling to virtually a halt until the skies began to take on a more somber tone with the approach of sunset. By this time, most anglers who had arrived shortly after dawn had taken their fill while those who had worked diligently throughout the midday period gave up in disgust, leaving a mere handful of anglers to enjoy the flurry of action before total darkness set in.

Regulars fishing these eastern Fire Island beaches often preferred the typical 11 foot surf spinning rod so that two to four ounce tins could be placed beyond the outer reaches of the breaking surf. The Crack 300 was in evidence as were Penn 706s, 704s and the skirted spool 750.

Cloudy skies coupled with onshore winds seemed to provide the local surfmen with their best chance of success. Many of the favorite tins, such as the J-8, D-5, E-8 or the Hopkins 4H adorned with a tube of red, white or green were a major part of every surfman's repertoire. Other lures took fish as well as cut bait, but that we will get to a bit later. No fish is more turned on by a popping plug than a bluefish, even though a major portion of its food was bottom hugging sand eels. These plugs may not out-produce a slowly worked tin under conditions encountered last season, but the enticing splish-splash of a pencil popper as it is slowly worked across the water's surface just before it disappears in an eruption of frothing water is a sight to behold. Such a plug, in both the Gibbs 1½ and 2¾ ounce sizes, should be a part of every surfman's bag of tricks, particularly during the fall run.

On many occasions, late arrivals, missing out on the hectic plugging enjoyed by those who made the effort to get out of their warm beds, would find themselves resorting to the use of cut bait in order to save the day. There are many who disdain the use of bait, but when massive schools of game fish are pouring along the southern coast of Long Island, bottom fishing is far from the boring, sedentary practice it is pictured to be. With the bait barely settled to the bottom, it is engulfed by a ravenous bluefish and once the hook is set, no one can predetermine his route to freedom. Some will rush for the beach, fouling the line and gaining freedom; others will head for the outer reaches of the sea before the force of the drag exhausts their strength. Others will lead you on a merry chase down the shore with the struggling angler hard-pressed to keep abreast of a teen-sized bluefish fighting for its life. No fancy rigs are necessary, the standard fishfinder with a 5/0 Siwash fitted to a length of wire leader equipped with a cork will suffice.

The possibilities along the eastern half of Fire Island are unlimited. Numerous species of fish pass along this shore just as there are various techniques used to take these fish. The combination of Smith Point County Park and Fire Island National Seashore constitutes one of the few remaining treasures for the mobile sport fishermen. By all means give it a try, but more important—treat it with love and respect for there are too few places like it on Long Island.

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FLOUNDER CATCHING TIPS

by Matt Ahern

This veteran sinker bouncer expounds on some of the finer points of the flatfishing game.

The hallmarks of good fishermen are many, but two are outstanding: the willingness to experiment come what may is number one, and the pursuit of knowledge required to anticipate the erratic behavior of our finny quarry is number two. Tough requirements, I know—but those who have need of a lamp, supply it with oil.

Now, as I say, this may seem a tall order to some, but it isn't all that difficult if one makes it a habit to ask certain questions. For want of a better name I've called these questions what-ifs. For instance, such questions as the following are appropriate: What if I do this? What if I try there? What if I fish here? What if I try that? What if I try deeper water? What if I try shallower water? What if I trim bait this way? What if; what if; what if. A continuous stream of what ifs will make of you a better fisherman—without question.

Now, of course, these wonderments, these what-ifs, are nothing but common sense; but they are wonderments which refuse to show themselves until we as fishermen have had enough experience to enable each of us to separate the wheat from the chaff, plus (and this is a biggie) the ability to reverse mediocre fishing results into the possible realm of the superb.

I know you are expecting to read an article on those flounder-catching tips I've garnered over the years, and perhaps I seem to be going about it in a roundabout way, but fret not—we'll eventually get there. However, in order to explain what is meant by experimentation and anticipation as it applies to fishing, let me first tell you a story.

I'm sure many sinker bouncers who read these weekly "pearls of wisdom" are familiar with the fishing ability of my buddy Artie Leidecker. But for those who are not acquainted let me say that Artie and I go back a long way—first meeting in July of 1920 as two know-nothing kids with a fire-breathing interest in fish, a passion that even today passes all understanding. We've been fishing buddies ever since, which is a good, long time in anyone's book. Artie is one fisherman who truly enjoys offshore fishing, one who is in his glory when chasing winter cod in the New York Bight. And because his codfishing interest is so intense, he's good at it. In fact, he's the best codfisherman I know. But then, of course, I'm prejudiced.

And because of this offshore interest, I was surprised when he called me one evening in late September of last year and expressed a desire to go flounder fishing.

"I met Al Dunn this morning," he told me in that raspy voice I know so well all these long years. "He mentioned you two guys are going out for flounder in the morning. Over in my neck of the woods. That right?"

"Yeah. Reynold's Channel."

"Okay. Pick me up at the dock. I want to try something."

And he hung up.

Just like that. No "Okay if I come along?" or "Got room for me?" But I suppose 63 years of friendship allows that privilege.

Anyway, Al Dunn and I met Artie at his Island Park dock early the next morning, and instead of renting a skiff as I had planned, he told us to hop aboard his 30 foot "Echo."

Now, I enjoy fishing from large boats (I'm a party boat fanatic, have been for 60 years), but I'm a firm believer that inshore flounder fishing is best done from a skiff (don't ask me to explain that—just another of my fishing prejudices), therefore, I've always felt that running a boat like the Echo for flounder chasing is a bit too much—and I'm not just considering the expense angle.

But I held my counsel simply because I figured if the flounder action dropped dead, which is always a possibility early in the season, we could run offshore and maybe snag a tardy fluke or two from the local wrecks. I was sure Artie had also pondered and **anticipated** this possibility, which I suppose was his reason for using the Echo in the first place.

Our destination was the mud flats bordering buoy 9 in Reynold's Channel, an area that had given us good flounder action in the past. We found the tide outgoing, with an hour or so to go before dead low, which unfortunately is not the best tide for good flounder fishing in the buoy 9 area. But there's not much a guy can do about that.

Anyway—we began to fish. I used a slice of soft clam neck, while Al and Artie relied on bloodworm. Al got the first action, a smallish flounder not worth keeping. I felt a spooky tick from a spooky fish that immediately decided soft clam wasn't on its menu of the day.

We continued to fish into low-water slack with no sign of action. The first minutes of the incoming tide produced another small flounder for Al and I was beginning to think he would become our fair-haired boy of the day.

It was then when Artie reeled in, removed his untouched bloodworm bait and tossed it overboard.

"Now we'll see," he murmured, more to himself I think than to us. He reached into his tackle bag and brought forth a small plastic container. He upended it and dumped several strips of red-dyed something-or-other onto the bait board.

"What's that?" I asked. "Red-dyed tape worm?"

"Nope. Red-dyed squid. Don't look surprised. You've caught flounder with it before."

Which was true.

"Remember last night on the phone I mentioned wanting to try something? Well, this is it. When Al told me you guys planned on taking a shot at flounder fishing, I figured this would be a good time to experiment. If we get these flounder to take red-dyed squid after refusing our other bait, maybe we can work out some way to get cod to take it on those slow days."

Fair enough.

I passed two pieces of the dyed squid to Al and then put one slice on each of my two hooks. I lowered the rig to the bottom and waited. Al again drew first blood, but this one was no throw-back—maybe a half pound. Then I got one about the same size and Artie reeled in a double-header, losing one at boat side.

These fish weren't large by any means, a one pounder being tops for the day, but we managed to catch 21 keepers on that incoming tide. Occasionally we would **experiment** by changing back to clam neck or bloodworm just to see what would happen. Two flounder went for it, but most were caught on that red-dyed squid. I noticed, though, that as the tide approached high, interest in red-dyed squid lessened. At high water, dyed squid produced no flounder; it was then when our bloodworm and soft clam put several additional fish in the bucket.

Now, you can make of all this what you will, you may derive anything you wish from it. There's plenty of information there for the experimenting fisherman. But I'll add this: as good as red-dyed squid was that day, it doesn't always produce when we

use it. When it does produce, it seems to be on those days when all else fails. But you will never discover such things if you don't experiment and anticipate.

'Nuff said.

Oh! Artie and I tried yellow-dyed squid strips for cod last fall and early winter. (Yellow instead of red because it can be seen more easily in deep water.) Our results were so-so, but Artie says we didn't give it a fair enough shake...he wants to try it again this winter. I'll let you know the results.

But while you wait for those results, I've got a few flounder-catching tips you can use this fall. Because I've been using these various methods for over 50 years, I can say without fear of reprisal that they work. Many were given to me as a boy by the unselfish old-timers of my old Brooklyn neighborhood. Select those you feel will help, then whenever possible, add refinements by experimentation. By so doing you will teach yourself to anticipate the actions of those hard-to-come-by fish when they put on their finicky act.

First, let's discuss what I think is the best flounder hook. Most fishermen use the standard #9 or #10 Chestertown—this, as far as most sinker bouncers are concerned, is the flounder hook. Period. But I'll tell you of a better one, one I've been using for 50 years (maybe longer). This is the #6 regular shank Sproat. Now to look at this hook, one would think it wouldn't hold a frisky killie...but don't let appearances deceive you. Take my word for it and give them a try. If you find them difficult to get, check the classified ad section in this magazine.

A moving bait is more attractive to flounder than one which remains stationary in one spot. When the current is slow-moving, it is to your advantage to jig. This should be done with a light wrist action which will cause the sinker to send up puffs of mud or sand. Because flounder are extremely curious, those in the immediate vicinity will seek out the reason for the commotion. I've caught more flounder with this method than any other.

You need not go wild with your jigging. All that's necessary is to jig a half-dozen times and then allow the bait to lie still for several seconds. The line is then cautiously tightened as you feel for the added weight of a feeding flounder. The instant this weight is felt, hook your fish with a short, smart lift of the rod's tip. It's important not to snap the rod upward with a fierce yank as so many fishermen do. To do so is to assure a missed fish.

I have had so much success with this method, as I say, that I made myself a bottom bouncer. This was made from a two inch lead pipe, 14 inches long. One end was crimped shut by pounding with a hammer, then three inches of molten lead was poured in and allowed to cool.

Next, a half inch hole was drilled one inch below the open end and an appropriate-sized shackle was used for attaching a 40-foot length of Venetian blind cord. I keep this extra length because many times flounder go deep, especially in early spring when the water still holds some of winter's chill.

I hang this overboard when skiff fishing. Should the action slow, I bounce it a few times and one or two curious flounder are added to my bucket. Actually, for flounder fishing I believe something like this is as necessary as bait and I wouldn't be without it.

Some fishermen use a sash weight and this, too, works fine. Its one drawback is the rapid accumulation of rust, which can create quite a problem if allowed to come into contact with your tackle. One made of lead will not only give a lifetime of service, but is guaranteed to put extra fish in your bucket.

We'll get back to dyed bait for a few minutes—particularly dyed clam.

Most information on dyeing clam says to place them in a container with sufficient water to cover, then a small amount of dye is added. This mixture is stirred and allowed to soak over-

(Continued on next page.)

Double-headers are not uncommon to those anglers well versed in flounder basics.

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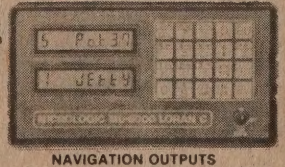

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night.

Well, maybe so, but I've had an easier go of it by simply cutting bait to the size I want (narrow, inch-and-a-half pieces) and then placing them in the container without water and adding a few drops of dye at a time, stirring with a small stick as I go along. Because I use red dye, I find a bright red hue is best. When this is allowed to refrigerate overnight, it will become darker and be just the shade desired. I also find that the dye seems to act as a preservative; bait to treated will keep over a week with normal refrigeration.

Dyeing clam can be a messy job. No matter how careful we all-thumbs guys are—well... I find that an old pair of cheap cotton work gloves are ideal for the job, and make sure you use plenty of newspaper to catch the drippings and splashings you're sure to make. You can bet you know who isn't going to like it one bit if you're sloppy, and we poor fishermen are in the doghouse enough as it is.

Sometimes flounder will accept a combination bait consisting of a slice of soft clam tipped with a small piece of sand or bloodworm. Why this should work when these same baits used singly may be refused, I don't know. But it does work occasionally, and it's something to keep in mind and used as a last resort. Always remember: flounder (as well as all fish) feed sometime during the day, even on slow ones; so if you can get them stirring around by bottom-bouncing, the chances are good they'll take a combination bait.

When skiff fishing, it's wise to use a short anchor line. What you don't want to do is swing too much—especially if you're chumming with bank mussel. If it's possible to do so, use a stern anchor as well. Be sure to allow enough scope to prevent the anchor being lifted by wind or tide. Some fishermen toss a small cork buoy near the anchor's vicinity. Then should the boat drift off, there's no problem returning to the original spot.

To finish this let me say: never, never hesitate to experiment. This bit of extra effort is what makes good fishermen even better.

Oh, yes...if you would like to know what various hook patterns look like in actual size as used by most cracker-jack bottom fishermen, plus a little information on baits and how to use them, get in touch with me. The Mustad hook company has put out a multi-page pamphlet of down-to-earth information which should be read by all bottom fishermen. If you would like a free copy, send a stamped, self-addressed business size (#10) envelope to my home—39 King Street, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. Please don't send your request to the office as I do all my work at home, and doing this will only cause unnecessary delay and expense. I'll get it off to you by return mail. One other thing: don't send any money for this. It is free.

Now, this fall—go get those flounder!

MEANMOUTH BASS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

CROSSING A LARGEMOUTH WITH A SMALLMOUTH BLACK BASS WAS A LABORATORY ATTEMPT TO PRODUCE A DREAM FRESHWATER GAMEFISH, BUT THIS HYBRID HAS PROVED SO AGGRESSIVE THAT IT HAS BEEN NAMED "*MEANMOUTH*."

THE STARTLING CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS FRANKENSTEIN BASS SOON BECAME EVIDENT IN PRIVATE PONDS AND LAKES WHERE IT WAS LIBERATED. AS OF THIS WRITING NO "*MEANMOUTH*" HAS BEEN STOCKED IN PUBLIC WATERS – AND IT'S NOT ABOUT TO BE.

SIZE : ULTIMATE BODY WEIGHT STILL NOT KNOWN BUT IT APPEARS TO GROW FASTER THAN ITS PARENTS.

TEMPERAMENT: SEEMS TO SWIM ABOUT WITH A CHIP ON ITS SHOULDER AND READY TO FIGHT ALL COMERS!

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

MOUTH : HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BITE SWIMMERS AND DOGS WADING IN THE SHALLOWS OF PONDS WHERE IT LIVES.

REPRODUCTION: IT IS A FERTILE HYBRID AND A VIGOROUS SPAWNER RAISING THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE GENETIC DAMAGE TO SMALLMOUTHS AND LARGEMOUTHS IF IT EVER GETS LOOSE IN THE WILD.

SHUTTER SECRETS

by Don Kamienski

Getting high over your favorite fishing grounds can show you better fishing.

I suspect that more time and money is spent by local anglers in fishing non-productive areas of our coastline than happens to be the total national budget of some of the smaller countries of Latin America or Asia. If you asked six guys who are standing on a dock why they fished a certain local area, you'll probably get back answers such as, "The guy in the tackle shop told me to fish here," or "This is where the majority of boats are, so it must be good," or "My uncle used to fish this area 25 years ago, and he always caught plenty of fish," or finally, "The water isn't as rough in this location." Now, everyone has their own reasons to board a boat. Some enjoy the pitching of a deck beneath their feet; others enjoy the smell of the salt air and the refreshing cool breezes; and others like to soak themselves in mineral oil and slowly bake in the tanning rays of the sun. While I can appreciate each of these notions to a certain degree, in my own case, I board my boat in order to catch a reasonable amount of fish. Being able to catch this amount in a consistent fashion, requires that I don't waste time fishing areas that are not yielding fish. If the fish ain't there...move!!

Finding the most productive inshore spots is just a matter of paying your dues, doing your homework, and actually fishing the areas in question. You can't become a talented angler by just reading about it in this and other such type magazines. You have to practice what various authors and guides are preaching. As far as I'm concerned, the initial step in catching inshore fish such as weakfish, fluke and flounder, is to locate their favorite haunts. After all, if you can't find 'em, you can't catch 'em!!

A little known, but extremely effective technique to locate outstanding secret locations is to combine the shutter of a 35mm camera, with the view provided by a small aircraft. The camera allows you to obtain a permanent record of your various fishing locations, while the height of the aircraft gives you a different perspective of the waters beneath you. Rather than looking at the waters as being a flat plane, which is the case when viewed from a boat or beach, the view afforded you from a high aircraft of this same water is one of depth, movement, various colors and moods, migration patterns, and travel routes of the fish. Pictures

Aerial view of inlets and back bays show best fishing areas.

taken from an aircraft of your favorite fishing areas almost come alive as you begin to realize why you've caught fish in one location and not another. At last count, there were some 25 to 30 airports that dotted our state. If you pick up a copy of the NOAA sectional aeronautical chart that pertains to your area, each of these airports are clearly identified. It's just a matter then of picking the airport that provides charter service and is the closest to your fishing territory. The cost of a charter flight is between $35 to $70 per hour depending on the charter service you select. Considering that the aircraft you select can fly around 200 miles per hour, the cost of an hour of flight time for aerial photography is rather reasonable in that you can cover a lot of territory in the hour in which you are airborne.

There are a couple of points I should mention when you select your aircraft. First, I'd suggest that it be a high wing craft, so that your pilot won't have to bank the plane in order for you to obtain perpendicular shots. Secondly, make sure the aircraft you select is equipped with side windows that open wide. If you attempt to shoot pictures through a windshield or a closed side window, you'll invariably get reflections of the aircraft's structure in the pictures. A side window that opens slightly tends to be a hassle in that it often doesn't provide you with enough of an opening to take specific shots. Make sure the camera is secured around your neck via a strap as you don't want it slipping out of your hands at 2,000 feet in the air.

The camera I use for aerial photography is a Canon AE-1 type which is set to automatic mode that adjusts the lens opening depending on the light conditions. I tend to carry two cameras with me, and in one, I'll use Kodachrome slide film; while in the other, I'll load with Kodak Plus-X black-and-white film. To avoid over-

exposed film, I'll increase the ASA setting on the camera containing the slide film to 120 even though the film's rating is 64. This gives me approximately one f-stop higher, and results in less washed out pictures. With the shutter speed set for 1/500 of a second, I'll have the pilot throttle back to 90 to 100 miles per hour before I poke the camera out the window and begin clicking the shutter.

While everyone has their pet lens, I tend to favor a 28mm to 85mm macro lens as it allows me to take wide angle shots of an entire bay or harbor, and then with a flick of the wrist, zoom in for a tight shot of a channel dropoff, sand bar, or underwater migration trough. With the variable lens, I'd have to keep switching lens which can get awkward in the cramped quarters of a small aircraft. Regardless of the lens you choose, I'd suggest that you mount either a haze or Polaroid filter on the lens of the color slide camera as these two filters give you better pictures under most circumstances. As for the camera with the black-and-white film, I've had my best success using an orange filter on the same type lens.

Since using aerial photography to reveal the secrets of the areas I fish, I've found that if we schedule an aircraft to coincide with the low tide of a late morning, on a day that is clear with gentle winds, the photos are of much finer clarity. So keep this suggestion in mind.

Most inshore species such as fluke, flounder, weakfish tend to be bottom structure orientated. As such, you should take aerial shots of the following places: channel edges, troughs, sand bars, points of land, and inlets. Even if you fish the area from the beach, a plane ride along your favorite pile of sand from 2,000 feet in the air, will often reveal the holes and cuts that migrating fish use to travel from one place to another depending on tidal phase. I know of one angler who has every depression and inner and outer bar along the surf line photographed, and even though these holes may change because of coastal storms, the pattern of fish movement through them seldom varies no matter where the depression is located.

The use of aerial photography in finding fishing locations though not practiced by many, can be extremely revealing to most. The first time I sat down with my aerial shots, I was amazed at what they exposed. I didn't realize until then that a certain trough made a dog-leg to the right, or that a series of mussel beds criss-crossed several areas of thin water flats, or finally that certain sand bars tend to act as giant funnels in herding fish into isolated pockets that are seldom, if ever fished. Now with this series of revealing color photos on my boat, I can concentrate my angling efforts in these choice spots, and hopefully put a few more fish in the bucket.

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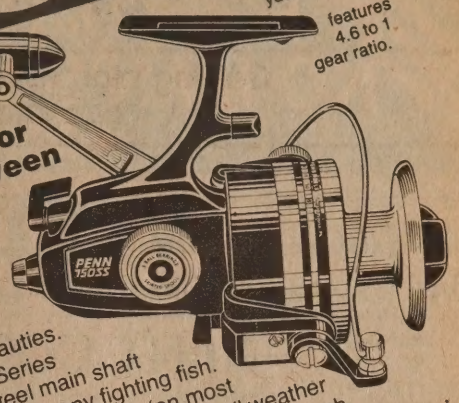

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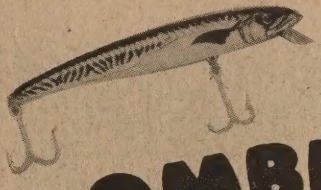
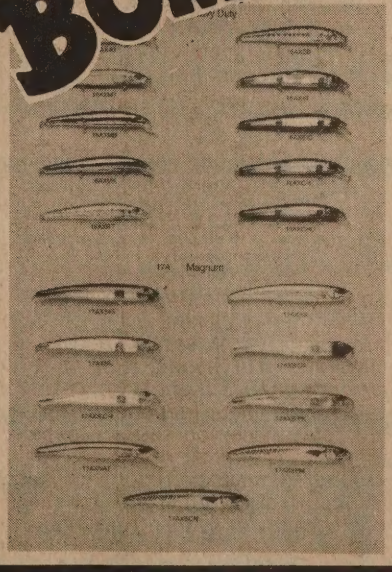


BOMBER



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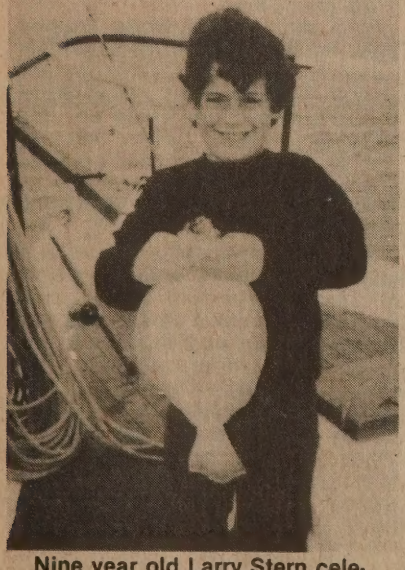
East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Blues and porgies seem to dominate the news out here with the blues running very large and porgies likewise.

MONTAUK

From Capt. Paul Forsberg's **Viking Fleet**, we learn that while Friday's porgy trip to Nomans Land was off a little due to the roll and the moon with catches down to 50-75 a man, things bounced back Saturday and Sunday with a vengence. Saturday's high hook was Dennis Dolberry of Palisades Park, NJ with 238 porgies, setting a new boat record. Sunday's hi-hook was Jose Ayala, Bronx, with 117 porgies. Sea bass and big blackfish and a few big flounder were mixed in also. The Cox's Ledge cod was classified by the skipper as fair, with cod 8-12 pounds and the weekend pools taken by fish in the 25 pound class. Catches average 8-10 fish a man taken on bait while drifting. The Cartwright bluefishing is simply all gorillas. Huge fish and all you want. Please note that the October 9th Nantucket wreck trip has been switched to the George's Banks schedule.

From Capt. Richie Rade of the



Nine year old Larry Stern celebrated his birthday by catching this fluke, his first fish ever, aboard the Montauk based open boat, Captain Willie.

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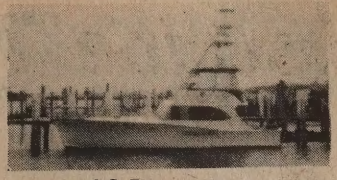

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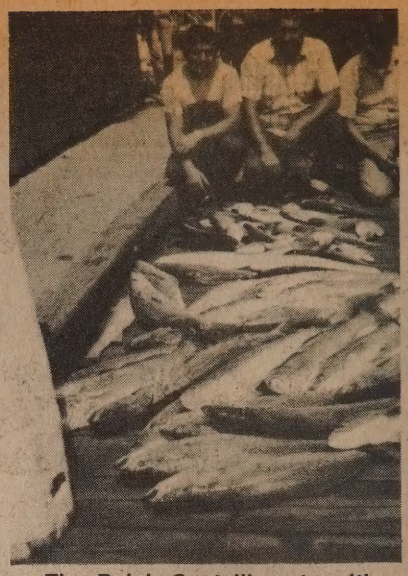

The Ralph Costelli party with 34 weaks and some blues taken on Ava jigs at Montauk aboard the charter boat, Vivienne.

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Marlin Fleet, we learn of very good day and night bluefishing at Cartwright with catches running from 15-30 big choppers per man. Rich said that a 26 pound blue was caught on the boat during the week. Good local porgy fishing in front of the lighthouse to the tune of 30-80 a man, fish running medium to large. Note that all day bluefish tickets have been sold for Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2.

From the charter boat **Julie III** come word of Saturday's three man charter for the Brieon Williams group from Tappan, NJ hoisting 310 porgies and sea bass. Sunday's 5 man charter led by Ted Gollatz taking 655 porgies. Action has been at Great Eastern and on the South Side.

From charter boat **Mako Express** WPLJ notable Howard the Cabdriver and group fished both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday they had a load of big Cartwright blues taken on light tackle, fish to 20½ pounds. Working offshore Sunday, Howie and his fares tagged and released 8 blue sharks up to 250 pounds keeping two for mounting.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** advised that sharking has been excellent this week with blue shark in the 200-300 pound range with an occasion mako being caught. Due to the late flurry in shark fishing, Phil will be working offshore 'till the beginning of October, weather permitting. Giant tuna has really slowed. Cartwright blues for the Leon Jones party, Sunday afternoon was great with fish in the 15-20 plus range. The Nill Brothers filled the well Sunday morning with smaller blues at Shagwong. Phil is now awaiting calls for bass trips, he said.

Porgy specialists **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud** rated the porgy catches

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THE Fisherman
P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963

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BLACKFISH
7:30 A.M.
DAILY

on their boats as continuing to be good/excellent with mixed size fish. The chilling waters will soon be making Midway and Block Island the choice porgy sites. Right now they're still around Great Eastern and at the Lighthouse. Hi-hook for the week aboard the Flying Cloud was Frank Bodinsky of Lindenhurst with 162 porgies. Lots of fares have been catching 40-100 plus. Action has been just 25 minutes from the dock.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the six man limit open boat **Waxed** reported excellent porgy action where customers have the chance to fill two five gallon pails (dumped twice) with mixed size porgies up to 2½ pounds. Sea bass have been sporatic at times and very good at other times. Bud explained that as sea bass filter out of Long Island Sound and we do get some really good shots at them as they pass the lighthouse. Flounder are also on the increase as they filter in.

We hear from Capt. John "Wizzard" DeMaio that casting at the point is red hot on 3-5 pound blues and also on false albacore. Pods of weaks are being located again said John. His fares had 8 weaks up to 12 pounds last week. Saturday's group took 7 bluefin tuna on diamond jigs. The skipper said it looks like the fall will be well stocked with weakfish.

Capt. Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** worked inshore for blues on the weekend. Saturday saw Bob Henry and pals umbrella 4-7 pound blues at Shagwong and at the point. While Sunday's trip for Judge Irad Ingrham from upstate, NY and family also umbrella blues in the same area. Joe said the inshore blues are as thick as fleas and if you want alligators, Cartwright is the spot to run to. The boat, Joe said, still has some open weekend dates available.

Everything cooperated but the

Dr. Scott Davis with the results of a solo half day fluke trip aboard the Montauk based charter boat, Nostalgia II.

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Weekly prize winners will receive a *trip for two* aboard any of the open boats participating in the contest plus an added bonus of *$25.00* to cover your day's expenses.

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One of the biggest blue sharks of the season was this 317 pounder taken aboard the Montauk charter boat, Darius II, by Bill Spitz of Smithtown.

weather during the weekend Striped Bass Tournament held out of **Gone Fishing Marina.** Despite the participation of some of the east end's best bass anglers, the winning fish was a disappointing 11 pounds. It was taken by Glenn Dennis. Dan Albora took second place with a mere 8 pound striper. To add insult to injury, divers reported good numbers of bass on Great Eastern, Saturday. They brought back a 50 pound cow along with lesser fish as evidence. On a brighter note, Maureen Senefelder of **Gone Fishing** said that Cartwright bluefishing continues unabated. Fifteen year old, Mark Lessing had a 21.5 pounder aboard the charter boat **Nostalgia II** on Saturday. A group from Armonk Auto loaded the cockpit of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** with big blues Saturday morning then finished up the day with a mixed bag of porgies and sea bass taken on the south side. Also on Saturday, Ed Jarvis of Patchogue whipped a 258 pound mako, 180 degrees, 25 miles from the Point.

SOUTH FORK

The word from the **Sag Harbor** open boat **Wilhelric II** is that the porgy fishing has been red hot with fares picking anywhere from 50-100 porgies a man on worm, clam and squid at Gardiner's. Blackfishing is on the upswing. The boat will soon be switching to an all blackfish schedule. Watch ad.

Speaking from **Speck's Tackle Shop** in Southampton, Thom Speckenback called the flounder fishing in the Basket area good and still building. Fluke were O.K. through the end of last week just outside of the inlet. Snappers remain big and abundant. Peconic Bay still has a fair number of schoolie weaks along with plenty of porgies. Thom reminded that he has registration forms available for the Kiwanis sponsored Striped Bass and Bluefish Tournament slated for October 19th through 23rd.

The Shinnecock open boat, **Jenny Rose,** reported that their Saturday wreck trips have been producing a fair number of 1 to 3 pound tautogs. Saturday's pool winner was Bill Bonner with a 4½ pounder. Sunday's Peconic porgy trip provided full buckets for most fares. A 3 pound bluefish took the pool for 7 year old, Chris Paparo.

Lanny Molnar of **Molnar's Landing** in Hampton Bays reported a few big bass in Shinnecock Inlet along with some slammer blues. Lynne Molnar live-lined a 27½ pound bass while Charlie Schula bucktailed one of 28½ pounds. He also had bluess to 16 pounds. There were still some fluke to be had on the West Bar of the Inlet during the week. Dan Harris had six one day including a 10 pounder. Best bet for flounder is the Basket area.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Fluke fishing remained good in both Inlets into the weekend but angler interest is beginning to swing to the more traditional fall species. There has been some decent flounder action in Moriches Bay while Great South Bay sinker bouncers did well with blackfish on the Kismet Reef. Bluefishing southeast of Fire Island Inlet remains hot at night but daytime action lagged a bit on some days despite the presence of a large body of fish. Ocean wrecks are producing blackfish, sea bass and big blues.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

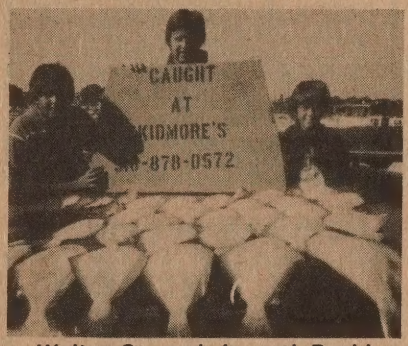
Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in East Moriches told of real good flounder fishing during incoming water and on the start of the ebb. Best scores are being made off of Haven's Point with per boat catches ranging anywhere from 30 to 75 flatties in the 3/4 to 2 pound range. On Saturday, Andy Attanasio, Andy Jr., and Joe Killian returned to the station with 72 flatties to 2 pounds. On Sunday, Joe Entler and Bob Deptula finished with 50 flounder. Bill Janovisk had the largest flounder of the weekend, a 2.10 pounder. One boat returned with 12 nice fluke on Sunday from the Inlet area.

Jim DeVita of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** dittoed Gary's report of good flounder fishing off of Haven's Point and also included the buoy 41 area. High boats on the weekend had catches numbering in the 50's. Blood worms and mussel chum working fine on the fish.

At the other end of the Bay, Nick Castoro of **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station** also had positive news on the flounder front. Though some boats do much better, most average 20 to 25 keepers out of 40 or 50 fish. Some of the fish are big as demonstrated by one angler who counted a dozen fish over 2 pounds among his 40 fish catch made at buoy 32. Buoys 29 and 36 also have their quota of fish. Fluke still available near the inlet on incoming water with 15 fish catches about the norm. Nick felt the fishing might last another week if the weather remains mild.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Good action with 1 to 3 pound weaks continued off of Brown's River according to Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in Patchogue. A few kings and blows are mixed with the weaks. Snappers are big but are showing signs of letting up, at least on the mainland side of the bay. Crabbing remains very good.



Walter Sr. and Jr. and David Czekaj with a fine catch of fluke taken at Haven's Point in Moriches Bay. The trio fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

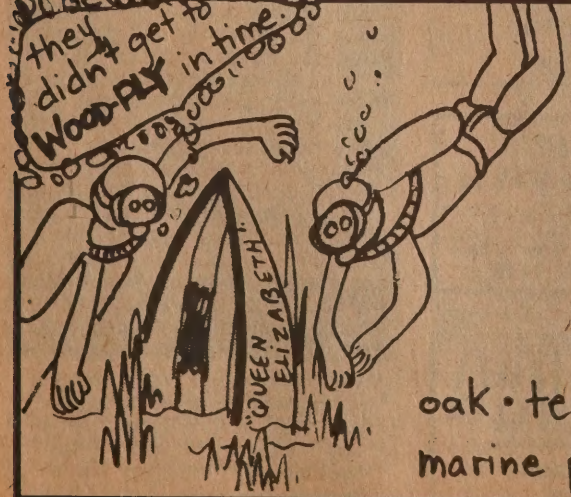
Over at **J&R Sport Center,** Al Colban also spoke of good action with small weaks in the bay and named buoys 24-26, 30 and 13, along with Brown's River as safe bets. Ocean Beach and West Channel surrendering a good mixed bag of porgies, sea bass, kingfish and blowfish. Blacks are on the Kismet Reef and at the wreck buoy but most are on the small side. Very good bluefishing off of Cherry Grove and at Three Sisters most days, though the weekend action was off somewhat. A few sharks taken south of the Inlet in 150 feet of water. At least one was a big mako.

L.I.F. contributing author Lou Mauriello and his fourteen year old son Stephen, kept a couple of dozen blackfish in the 2 to 4 pound range and returned many smaller fish during Saturday's outing on Kismet Reef. One bulldog, estimated at between 10 and 12 pounds was dropped at the boat. All were taken on green crabs during incoming water. The pair anchored and chummed in West Channel at high water slack and finished the day bailing sea bass, porgies and blowfish.

Ireene Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in East Islip reported that husband Peppy spent Saturday doling out chum not too far south of the Patch-ogue Ground. Before the day was out, several yellowfin tuna, along with some bonito, were put into the fish box of the C-Scape. Ireene relayed word of very good blackfishing on Kismet Reef and a decent showing of flounder in the Sore Thumb Pocket.

Captree's open and charter boat fleet continued to cash in on the abundance of blues in their home waters although day fishing endured a couple of slow days this past week and weekend. Night fishing remains a sure bet and the wrecks too produced good fishing for big blues.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** spoke of super night action at Cherry Grove and Patchogue.



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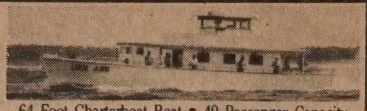

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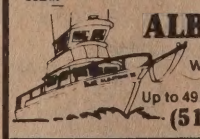

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Most days have been excellent with the skipper now concentrating on giant wreck blues. The ongoing boat pool is now up to $700.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** had reason to be enthused about the results of the weekend's ocean wreck trips. On Saturday, over 400 sea bass, porgies and blackfish ranged 1 to 4 pounds but included a 7½ pound pool winner. Sea bass were in the 1 to 3½ pound range and porgies were 1 to 2 pounds. Sunday saw great sea bass action with 30 passengers accounting for over 500 of the scrappers in the 1 to 4 pound class. A fair number of blacks and porgies were mixed with them. Dave Brown and his fifteen year old son Mike of East Islip, put away 61 sea bass on Sunday's trip.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** reported continued excellent night bluefishing. Daytime action was very good during the week but crystal clear water and plenty of boat traffic made the fish tough to catch on the weekend.

Capt. Carl Passerro of the **Jib VI** called to remind that he has joined the offshore wreck scene and will be sailing 8AM daily. Early indications are of a good mix of blacks, sea bass and porgies.

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** spoke of continued excellent night bluefishing with a larger percentage of big fish making up the catches. Some of the choppers run up into the high teens. Fluking through the weekend was fair with 4 to 6 per man about the average for the half day morning trips. Afternoon flounder trips producing 5 to 10 keepers per man with most of the action being found near the Sore Thumb and in the State Channel. Morning fluke and night bluefish trips will continue as long as the demand is there.

Jim Cavanaugh with the 71 pound white marlin he boated southeast of Fire Island Inlet in 140 feet of water. Photo courtesy of Peppy's Tackle Shop in East Islip.

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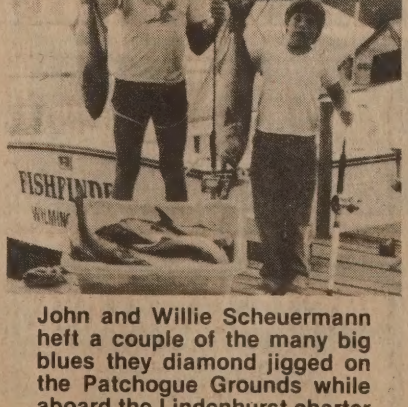
From **Augies Bait and Tackle** in Babylon, Fred Austin said that most fishing in the area is either on the way in or out. Fishing for small weaks and nice size kings was good on the weekend down off Heckscher but can't be counted on to last much longer. The same can be said for the fluking at the Inlet while flounder fishing showed gradual improvement in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Blackfishing off to a good start at Kismet with green crabs accounting for most of the weekend action. Artie Orlandi of **Augie's** jigged a few yellowfin tuna while sharking in 190 feet of water over the weekend. A few tuna were trolled in the Canyon.

Mike Andreanni of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** said that a few customers showed mixed bags of porgies, sea bass, blowfish and blackfish. Best blackfishing is on the reef at Kismet. Flounder beginning to take hold in the Sore Thumb Pocket and plenty of big snappers on the south side of the bay. Plenty of good size crabs still around locally.



John and Willie Scheuermann heft a couple of the many big blues they diamond jigged on the Patchogue Grounds while aboard the Lindenhurst charter boat, Fishfinder.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** looked over a good catch of flounder to 2 pounds made in the Amityville Cut on Saturday. He also saw a catch of several school bass trolled inside Fire Island Inlet on umbrellas early Saturday morning. Blackfishing has been good in two directions with Kismet to the east and Swift Creek to the west, surrendering plenty of tautogs. Some big weaks around for live-liners. Ralph saw a 14 pound tide-runner over the weekend.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Lots of offshore and inshore and bay action going on here. Bluefish dominate offshore and local inshore grounds while inshore wrecks are holding good mixed bags of sea bass, porgies and blacks. Excellent blackfishing at bridges and jetties while on the inside, sea bass and flounder with a scattering of blowfish and kingfish plus some big late season fluke are keeping things hopping.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station in **Seaford** told of the beginnings of fall flounder at Massapequa Cove and Four Corners, fish ¾ to 1 pound. Also a healthy scattering of porgies, blowfish, sea bass and robins. Some 4 and 5 pound fluke also being taken at the Wantagh Bridges. Plenty of blackfish and sea bass at the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh also. Its fiddlers for the blacks and squid, clam or worms for the sea bass.

Very good flounder catches every day said Capt. Brian of the **Chinco III**, with hi-hooks in the 40's most days. On Friday, Ray Thompson had 87 keeper flounder plus sea bass, porgies and blowfish. Everything's getting bigger now and 90% of the flounder are now keeper size, ¾-1½ pounds. The boat is working all the local drops and the skipper said for action and mouthwater fillets, come on down, now!

From **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** comes word of 8-14 pound blues being trolled on the weekend in 80' of water on umbrellas. Flounder seem to be on the upswing in local bays while customers are bringing in blackfish fishing the bridges with fiddlers. On Tuesday morning, Jim Watts of the shop caught a 17 pound, 4 ounce blue on 15 pound test line. See surf report for details.

Swinging over to the boats out of **Freeport**, a call from Capt. Bill Venezia of the charter boat **Ivory Queen** told of Monday's trip for the Paul Huber group which took 140 blues on bait and chum on top at Cholera, fish 3-6 pounds. Sunday's trip for Doug Tullan resulted in 16 bluefin tuna to 30 pounds, 12 albies and 2 bonito. Action was in 140' of water SE of Jones on red and white, and black and white feathers.

Super bluefishing was the report from the **Starstream II** with fish this week running 4-15 pounds. The fish have been in close and the number of fish at the the heavy end of the scale has been astounding. Fish are being baited and jigged with the boat on the hook. Its all baitfishing at night and catches can only be described as very good to excellent both day and night.

From the **Capt. Al** we learn of very good bluefish catches all week long and all night long. Saturday catches were solid again at Cholera with fish of 3-5 pounds but Sunday's bluefish hysterics were what Capt. Al Lindroth described as the best bluefishing day of the season so far. Not one fish was brought up under 10 pounds and fish ran up to 20 pounds. Working Middle

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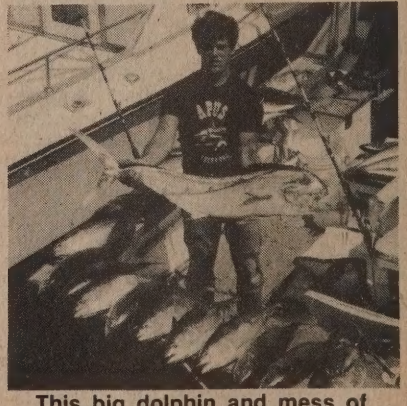

This big dolphin and mess of football tuna were taken south of Jones Inlet aboard the Freeport charter boat, Apus.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	1:10	1:40	1:50	2:30	1:35	2:10	3:00	3:15	4:30	4:50	4:40	5:05	1:20	1:55	9/29
FRI.	2:20	2:45	3:00	3:40	2:45	3:20	4:10	4:25	5:35	5:55	5:45	6:15	2:30	3:05	9/30
SAT.	3:35	4:00	4:15	4:50	4:05	4:35	5:15	5:35	6:50	7:10	6:55	7:25	3:35	4:10	10/1
SUN.	4:45	5:10	5:25	5:55	5:20	5:45	6:20	6:40	8:15	8:35	8:00	8:30	4:40	5:05	10/2
MON.	5:50	6:10	6:25	6:50	6:25	6:45	7:15	7:40	9:30	9:55	9:05	9:30	5:35	6:05	10/3
TUES.	6:45	7:05	7:25	7:50	7:20	7:40	8:05	8:30	10:25	10:50	10:00	10:25	6:30	6:55	10/4
WED.	7:35	7:55	8:15	8:35	8:10	8:30	8:55	9:25	11:20	11:45	10:50	11:15	7:20	7:45	10/5
THURS.	8:20	8:40	9:05	9:25	8:55	9:15	9:45	10:15	—	12:05	11:40	—	9:45	10:10	10/6

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 49
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 9/29	6:54	6:47
FRI. 9/30	6:55	6:45
SAT. 10/1	6:56	6:43
SUN. 10/2	6:57	6:41
MON. 10/3	6:58	6:39
TUE. 10/4	6:59	6:38
WED. 10/5	7:00	6:36

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 9/29	11:35PM	2:19PM
FRI. 9/30	—	3:18PM
SAT. 10/1	12:39AM	4:09PM
SUN. 10/2	1:51AM	4:53PM
MON. 10/3	3:06AM	5:30PM
TUE. 10/4	4:23AM	6:03PM
WED. 10/5	5:39AM	6:32PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
10/6	10/13	10/21	10/29

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	11:30	**5:20**	—	**5:50**
Fri.	12:05	**6:15**	12:25	**6:45**
Sat.	12:55	**7:10**	1:20	**7:40**
Sun.	1:55	**8:05**	2:15	**8:35**
Mon.	2:50	**9:00**	3:10	**9:30**
Tues.	3:45	**9:50**	4:00	**10:20**
Wed.	4:35	**10:40**	4:50	**11:05**
Thurs.	5:20	**11:25**	5:35	**11:50**

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Four year old Jarrett Cohen with two of four nice flounder he caught on his first open boat trip. The youngster and his dad fished on the Freeport open boat, Capt. Andy.

Grounds the action was so solid for two hours that three gaffs had to be employed continually, without stopping, with the skipper himself lending a hand.

The word from the **Miss Freeport II** is that fares are having good mixed bags, mostly seabass. Monday and Thursday, excellent porgy catches were had up to 1½ pounds and sea bass to 3 pounds. Fares are getting many 2-3 pound blackfish also. A giant sea bass took the pool Sunday weighing roughly 3 pounds. Plenty of fish around, said skipper Tony Maio.

From the **Blue Fin Fleet** comes word of excellent blues with hi-hook of the week, 47 blues for Brooklyn angler Wayne Buttons. Sunday's pool was a 17 pounder for Lou Malizia. During the week the fish ran predominantly 4-6 pounds with albies mixed in. Action has been 9-15 miles SW of the inlet, a short ride. The night blues continue to be excellent with average catches in the teens. Hi-hooks are running in the 20's and 30's. Chum, bait and diamond jigs with the boat anchored up or drifting is producing fish. Nick Economou, Astoria, and Dan Fanghn both caught in the mid 20's. Jim Gainos of Hanover Bank landed a 17 pounder while Jack Conroy, Bronx, was pool and hi-hook winner Saturday. Three ladies who really bagged up last week were Sue Kimis, Debby Doph and Kathy Pilco. Capt. Tony DeLernia announced that his wife Lou Ann gave birth to a baby boy Michael James.

From the charter boat **Lady J III**, Capt. Pat advised that all trips this week socked it to the blues on bait and chum at Cholera. Tuesday's happy group was Breed, Abbot and Morgan, a law firm from Manhattan. Friday's night trip bailed blues. This was the John Bakos party. Saturday was another leap job for Greaney group. Sunday was a repeat of the action for the Unicorn Fishing Club. Fish ran from 2-16 pounds.

Capt. Dan Pollera of the charter boat **Nan Sea** had a trip Sunday for

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the Shell Station in Merrick and fishin SE of the HA buoy totalled 25 B.F.T.'s and albies.

The word from the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** is that night trips on the **Super Spray II** and day and night trips on the Association's charter fleet has been stupendous right through the weekend. Blues are all over the place with a lot of bonito and falsies mixed in. The Super Spray's daily mixed bags of porgies, sea bass, and blacks is holding very steadily. The Spray is also running a cod wreck trip Sunday, October 16th with a 1AM sailing time. The trip is limited and is by reservation only. There is a $30 deposit required on a $60 fare. See ad for details. The past cod wreck trips which the boat has sailed this year have been real cooler crammers.

From the charter boat **Capt. Gary**, we learn of Saturday's trip for Fish and Brew Fishing Club, working inside for flounder, porgies, sea bass, blacks and kings. The catch was solid and was had locally. Ron Carmen took the pool with a 2½ pound fluke. Sunday's trip for the Glendale Knights of Columbus was a repeat of Saturday. The pool went to Adam Barton with a 3 pound fluke. Lou Whittaker was hi-hook with a mixed catch.

A very good week's flounder fishing was had aboard the **Capt. Lou III & IV.** On the full day boat, hi-hooks ran from the 30's to the 80's. George Freel, Richmond Hill had 56 good flatties Saturday. Sunday saw John Pasca with 86 flounder. John of "Mickey's Toy" had 65 good flounder. On the ½-day boat, Jim McGinnus took a 10 pound striper, quite by accident, while Joan Calderazzo had a 5 pound fluke. Sam Schiel, of Kew Gardens, had 30 flounder. Forest Hills angler Max Karlitz had 35 while Guy Sabone had 40. Doc, a regular, hoisted 30 sea bass while Diane and Barry Katz bagged up with 55 flatties. Jerry Cohen and son had 60 between them. Steve and Carol Flatery managed 61. Fifty was the count for Bill and Barbara Coleman. Herb Falk had 50 and Ed Robin had

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Matt French whipped this 65 pound yellowfin tuna while on his first tuna trip aboard the Point Lookout charter boat, Marie III.

45 plus a 6 pound black. Note that all tickets have been sold for the October 2nd AM trip on the **C.L. IV**

Out of Baldwin Harbor, Jan at **Thompson's Deli and Fishing Tackle** had customers report to her of catching an assortment of fish, namely sea bass, blacks, blues and flounder under the Meadowbrook Bridge on bloodworm and squid. Also on the week and also on an ebbing tide, good flounder catches were had at the mouth of Milburn Creek.

Down in **Point Lookout** a call from the **Capt. Bill** advised that due to mechanical trouble, the boat did not sail during the week but did have very good flounder catches Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's hi-hook on the morning trip was 30 flounder. On the PM trip, a charter for Catholic Charities for the Handicapped, saw very good catches of mixed blacks and flounder. On Sunday, Carmine Cesarano, Freeport, had 25 flatties, while Mitch, a regular, had 20 flounder along with a sprinkling of seabass and blacks.

The **Marie III** reported Saturday's charter picked away at flounder, sea bass, porgies and blacks working Reynolds, Long Creek and the Meadowbrook Bridge. Sunday's trip for Post Fishing Club had excellent flounder catches in the morning at the north end of Long and Swift creeks on worms with most fish 1-1½ pounds. In the afternoon the local bridges provided good catches of sea bass, porgies, blacks and kings. Six of the sea bass were in the 2 pound range. Steve Dobal was hi-hook with 39 mixed fish.

The word from Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** is that the boat will continue to night bluefish as long as the people come down and the fish are around. Right now its big fish and small crowds, the ideal situation. On Sunday night's blue trip, Paul Kramer had 40 blues to 20 pounds. Ellen Nagy had 35 blues to 18 pounds. The boat had several days of excellent flounder catches during the week with hi-hooks in the 30's. On Wednesday's PM trip Earl French took the pool. On Saturday's AM trip, Sid, a regular, took the pool. Nick and Jim had 62 good flounder. Over 400 flatties were taken on the AM trip. Sunday's PM pool was taken by Wayne Edwards. Lots of sea bass mixed into the catch. Two stripers were taken by accident also this week. Long Creek has been a hotspot and worms are working best.

The report from **Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of great blackfish action at the Meadowbrook and Loop Bridges on fiddlers. Nyla Amato weighed in a 8½ pound week taken at the Coast Guard Station on bloodworm.

From **Beckmann's** in **Lynbrook** comes the report of good fishing for virtually all customers walking through the door. Flounder are on the upswing in Swift Creek and on the south bank of Sloop Channel. Fluke are also picking up at both ends of Reynold's with fish on the large side. Blackfishing has been excellent at all bridges and jetties, especially the AB Bridge on fiddlers and green crabs. Plenty of large snappers around now and big blues swimming around in Reynolds under the bunker schools.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina** we learn of blacks, blues and flounder being caught this week. The Dory fleet has been concentrating on blacks at the AB Bridge up to 4 pounds. Billy Kraeger and Ron Ward, using fiddlers, came in with 50 blackfish. Fall flounder catches have been good at buoy 9, Duck Point and the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Blues are being umbrellaed off Lido, The Rockaways and the Tin Can. Bait and chum has been very effective at Cholera and Three Sisters. Again we hear of big blues under the bunker

schools in Reynolds.

From Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** in **Atlantic Beach** we hear of super duper blackfishing at the AB Bridge and Silver Point Jetty and the Rockaway Jetties on fiddlers and greens. These fish are running 1-2 pounds. Some flounder off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club and Duck Point to 2 pounds on worms. Three to five pound blues from Debs/East in 30' of water on umbrellas with larger blues offshore such as at 17 Fathoms. A few weakies on the east side of the AB Bridge. Al weighed in an 11 pound, 10 ounce tiderunner taken on a red Jellyworm. Winners in the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club Bluefish Tournament were a 15 pounder taking first place for Fred Hill on the Four Queens. A 13 pound 12 ounce blue took 2nd place for Sid Alter, same boat. Third place went to a 13 pound, 8 ounce blue caught by Phil Harris on the Queen Jean.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Swinging over to **Sheepshead Bay**, we hear from the **Zephyr** that Friday's blackfish catches were very good with fish to 5 pounds at the Shrewsbury Rocks. Saturday fares picked blacks and sea bass and Sunday was mostly excellent sea bassing, fish ¾-1½ pounds and blacks to 4½ pounds. Catches are averaging ½ to a full five gallon pail per angler.

A call from Capt. Tom Palladino of the **Elsie K III** advised that starting Saturday, October 1, he will be switching over to blackfish, 7AM Daily.

We hear from Capt. George of the **Pastime II** that last week's wind

Ed Pugio and Mike Wenning with nearly 50 fluke taken on spearing and killies in Sea Dog Creek. Photo courtesy of Ed's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

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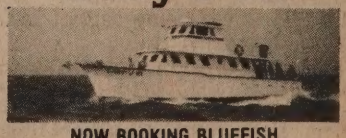

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FREEPORT

Fred Mello with 10 big weaks to 10 pounds checked in at Skippy's Tackle Shop in East Rockaway. The fish were live-lined in Jones Inlet.

prevented good fluke drifting. Therefore they went on the anchor and customers had excellent porgy, sea bass and blackfish catches. It was so good that the boat is calling a halt to the fluking for the year and is staying with the bottom action until the regular fall flounder improve. Flounder were mixed in with the weekend's catch. The boat will continue it's twice a day sailings for blacks, porgies and sea bass until further notice.

From Capt. Walt Wiegand of the **Flamingo III** comes word that fares have been having excellent bluefish catches right through Saturday at the Sisters and Cholera. Action has been partly on bait and chum and partly with diamond jigs. Due to heavy boat traffic Sunday, fishing was off that day. Blues have been running 3-18 pounds. Some schools also have been located and worked down along the Jersey Beaches in the AM's. Looks like a great fall season upon us, said the skipper. Some local resident moster blues to 20 pounds are being taken at Horton's Point.

The word from Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** is that bluefin tuna to 125 pounds are being taken at the Canyon. Day and night bluefishing has been excellent on both bait and jigs daytime, bait at night at 17 and Klondike. Blacks and porgies are keeping lots of open boat customers smiling while stripers are being taken off the Breezy Point Jetty on top water swimmers and poppers. Good bluefish catches on bunker at the Tin Can and Norton's Point. Two to three pound blues are being caught in the bay on bunker.

Over the horizon on **Staten Island**, Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** felt that the bluefishing was the strongest action of the week. Casters working south beach and the Burger Ave. Storm Sewer areas have been taking

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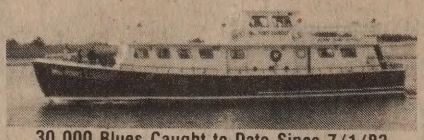

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blues from 12 to 19 pounds on the beach on cut bunker or butters. From Great Kills to Annadale the fish are running 3-5 pounds. A little bass action at Cliff Street on bucktails and Rebels and Burger Ave. and Penny Beach on worms, all on outgoing. Great Kills Harbor and Stapleton Piers 8, 12 and 17 have been very good for snappers while flounder are starting in Great Kills Harbor.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Fall weather added some zip to porgy and black fishing while big blues continued to stalk the inshore waters in various areas. A windy Saturday made fishing the Sound problematic, but Sunday's results were generally excellent.

WESTERN SOUND

John Palmieri at John's Gun and Tackle in New Rochelle said that a few blackfish had started hitting locally and that there were snappers all over. There were still big bluefish scattered in the harbor for those who cared to troll large single surge tubes or umbrellas.

On City Island, **Jack's Tackle** reported small blackfish to 2½ pounds off the CBS Tower and Harts, but an improvement in sizes was expected momentarily. Some gorilla bluefish made up part of a catch out of Port Washington for anglers snagging bunkers. Chunk mackerel and bunker chunks were also adequate. Jigging was producing smaller blues to 5 pounds and snappers were nice sized. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** had nice porgy fishing and some good early blackfish results with tautog up to 4 pounds last week. Cerbone found 30 to 35 porgies per fare off Lloyd's on Sunday and tries to hit the scup on the tide before moving in towards the rocky areas where the blackfish are. It pays to keep crab baits on the bottom with the softer clams riding the high hooks. Cerbone was working the shallow water near Norwalk on Saturday.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported that blues were still being wired in mid-Sound and that the pods of slammers had left Hempstead Harbor when the bunker did during the northwest blow. Bayville had some good blackfish action over the weekend near the shore. Either Center Island or the Piping Rock area were production. There were flounder already off Pryble and Garvey's and some decent numbers of small bass

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were in Bayville as well.

Frank Ackley called to say that the **Tarpon** out of Glen Cove did some fine jigging for Rocky Rinato's party on Sunday off Norwalk with some 35 slammers from 12 to 17 pounds on large Ava jigs without tails. Sunday's action in calmer seas was superior to Saturday's when Ackley had Werner Koopman's group pushing hard for about a dozen big blues.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine at **Four Winds Tackle** felt that the best shots on big blues in all local harbors was either early or late with fish to 16 pounds showing in Huntington, Northport, Centerport and off Lloyd's. The porgies off Eaton's were in 20 to 25 feet of water according to Jerry Cedar at **Huntington Prop and Tackle,** and blackfish were off buoy 11B. Cedar also suggested worm trolling for bass around the Cold Spring Causeway on the tides. There seemed to be consistent action on bluefish from 3 to 6 pounds on jigs off the OB, off 11B, and off buoy 15. Worms on the bottom on the tides were catching a few bass from 6 to 10 pounds for sharpies, and some of the tautog off buoy 11B were already pushing 6 pounds.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** in Northport said that there were some nice porgies being caught on worms in 40 to 45 feet of water and that some big blues were being taken on bunker. The boat fishermen were doing best with drails while shore fishermen were working with chunks.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's Fishing Station** in Mount Sinai told us that local bluefish were going crazy with a lot of 3 to 5 pound choppers still up on top. Some fish on Saturday night weighed 13½ and 14½ pounds. Despite the wind, Saturday's porgy

Leundro Sotolongo displays the 10 pound blackfish he caught aboard the City Island open boat, Apache.

Kerry Stuven and her dad Walter with 13 blues to 12 pounds taken inside Centerport Harbor on bunker chunks. Subscriber Photo.

fishing was very good. **Sutler's** in Port Jefferson figured that blackfishing off Oldfield was the best bet with a lot of 3 to 4 pound fish around. Porgies were available in good numbers on clams and worms, and the scup sizes were in the 1/2 to 3/4 pound range.

Ken Freeman at **Angler's Den** in Selden figured that porgies were larger toward Eaton's but suggested nighttime in the Mount Sinai Harbor for big blues on bunker. The best local bass last week were in the 18 pound class.

Packy Collins called to tell us that both the **Ever Ready** and the **Broker** had busy weeks on bluefish with alternating picks and bail jobs in many areas. Among the locations cited were Stamford, Green Ledge, the Triangle, Lloyd's and buoy 24C off Norwalk. Sunday's slammers may have been the best of the week. Robert Popielarski had a 15 pound fish while Glenn Anderson won the pool with a 16 pound monster. George Schultz and Frank Rinaldi had parties aboard Billy Collin's Broker and bailed the blues on Saturday and Sunday.

NORTH FORK

Word of fine weakfish in action in the western Peconics came from Phil Loria at **Captain Marty's Fishing Station** in New Suffolk. Seems that the numbers of 1 to 3 pound fish went right back up on last week's tides off Roses. Anglers are advised to hit the porgies and weaks now before the draggers begin to work the Peconics next week.

Warren's Tackle in Aquebogue said that buoys 2 and 4 were also producing weakfish in Great Peconic Bay. Blackfish action was now very good on the Sound in shallow water close to the beach. The Firing Range off Mattituck Inlet was cited by Liz Caraftis at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** for some good steady results. The most outstanding fish of the week was a 4 pound sea bass put on the scales Saturday. The fish took a clam bait off the Water Tower. There were still porgies off the Tower and off the Motel as well.

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** advises that some large tautog have now moved in off Mulford. There are little porgies everywhere in the Bay from South Ferry all the way around Southold Bay and up through the Middle Grounds, but the larger fish are in the Sound off Petty's and off the trap east of the Orient Station. The zone from buoys 14 and 16 to Jessups had some sizeable blowfish, too. Most of the flounder from Petty's Bight can now be found on local fish markets, thanks to enterprising draggers.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport told us that bluefish were stacked deep off the Ruins and in the Race off Fisher's Island. Jigging with 8 ounce slab diamonds was the ticket, and fish were available in all sizes from mid size to slammers. Flounder are on both sides of the Point and Plum, and Gull are the standby's for tautog, advises White.

Clark Bellows on the **Prime Time II** advises that the blackfish have now begun to move from the standard 2 to 2½ pound size up toward 6 pound

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bragging sizes as the boat works east. Some big flounder are mixed with the tautog and some sea bass too. Bellows enjoyed a fine blast of fish on Saturday afternoon when the winds finally dropped. John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross** has been moving with the blackfish, and pulled one super bulldog short of 12 pounds on Sunday. Although the bergalls are all over the soft baits, some of the flounder found with the blackfish run over 2 pounds.

George Porter's **Brand X** enjoyed a good weekend on porgies with some jumbo scup to 3½ pounds and blackfish to 8 pounds. There were sea bass mixed with catches, too. Porter expects to be working porgies until at least October 15 with a switchover to blackfish after that.

John Duggan called to tell us that the **Peconic Star** was also participating in the catch of "the finest kind" of porgies. Jim Carter had an outstanding bag on Sunday with over 40 porgies and a half dozen blackfish.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Good surf action carried through the early part of last week but appeared to settle into a lull late in the week and through the weekend. Montauk was a notable exception with lots of 3-6 pound bluefish and a fair number of 6-11 pound weakfish being taken on night tides through this weekend. North Shore reports were virtually non-existant.

School bass were plugged along the Long Beach and Atlantic Beach jetties during the early part of last week and big blues were spread through the Rockaways and were also in evidence at West End, Jones Beach. According to Charlie Beckmann of **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** in **Lynbrook**, with the exception of a few stray blues, the action came to a hault on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Not much word of any activity in this area on the weekend.

A potential 16 pound class world record bluefish was taken out of the Point Lookout surf on Monday by Andy Kmetz of Bellmore. Andy used a J-8 tin to beach a chopper of 20 pounds, 12 ounces, just after dawn. The retired Grumman employee weighed the huge blue at **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore**. Jimmy Watt of Merrick Tackle bested an impressive bluefish himself at West End Jones Beach on Tuesday. Using a Pencil Popper, Jimmy put a 17¼ pound blue on the beach. It too was taken at dawn. West End had been enjoying action through Wednesday evening

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when Billy (Blitz) took 4 big blues on tin working the inlet side of the jetty.

Noel Kappauf at the **Captree Bait Station**, said that it was a pretty quiet weekend in the surf with no bass reported taken. He did know of just a few blues in the 8-12 pound class taken on bait between Democrat and Gilgo.

John Capute took the lead in the weakfish division of **J & J Tackle's** season long contest. It was one of several big weaks taken on swimming plugs on Sunday night in the Moriches surf. Paul Graniello who reported John's success added that the overall surf scene has been quiet since the middle of last week with the exception of a few big blues taken on bait between the Smith Point Pavillion and the West Jetty of Moriches Inlet.

A 39 pound striper was taken from the Southampton ocean beach on a live eel Thursday night. Also a few school bass taken down at the inlet on swimming plugs after dark. This via Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton**. Bluefishing remained fairly consistent along local beaches with tins and poppers working well in the early morning hours. Most of the fish range between 3 and 6 pounds with an occasional 7 or 8 pounder mixed in. The Hampton Bays side of the inlet had its quota of fish early last week.

Bluefish ranging anywhere from 2-7 pounds literally choked the **Montauk** surf most of last week. By the end of the week it was mostly an after dark affair which made getting through to the weakfish a difficult task at times. Nonetheless, quite afew nice weaks were taken up front on night tides through the weekend. Bluefish were spread from the Light to Shagwong. Some casters found that white darters or bottom plugs helped cull the weaks from the blues. Loads of snappers were apparently holding the fish.

Mike Campanelli worked under the light on Thursday and besides taking a load of blues, he managed a few weaks and one 10 pound striper on white bottle plugs. As recently as Sunday night, George Butler, Ray Solinas and Hays Theimann (of The Store), found a mess of 4-6 pound blues at Shagwong Point. Chasing snappers, the fish were easy targets for almost any plug.

A note from Walter Stuven reveals that he has been taking big blues on bunker chunks on a regular basis from the shoreline of Centerport Harbor. He noted that he has been taking the fish not just in the early AM or the evening but also during midday and often when it appears that there is no activity. Those with access to this area may want to follow up on Water's report.

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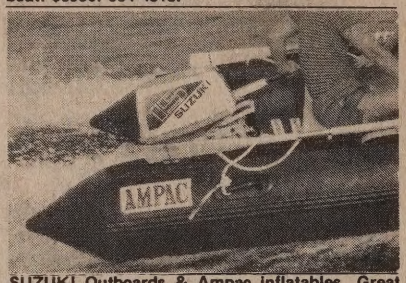

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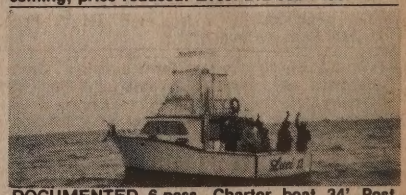

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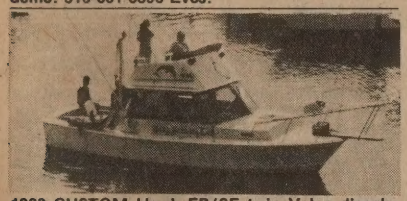

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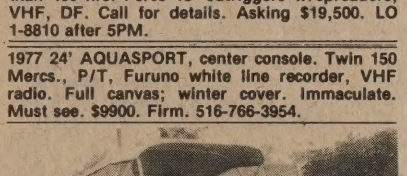

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8' 1980 ensign, Shipmate. Never used, $250. 203-255-1041, 203-255-9845.

STAMAS 1974 24' cabin, 225 hp. I.O. OMC, VHF, DF, Canvas, Galley. Exc., $9500. 516-928-6150.

1962 CENTURY Sport Cruiser, 25', fly bridge, 10' beam, electronics, 1982 reblocked & rebuilt 283 Chev. eng., $3800. After 5PM. 399-3241.

1978 MAKO 21/Evinrude 200 with Bennett trim tabs, some canvas, new bilge pump, antennas for VHF, CB, Loran C. Motor used only four years-new head last year. Full electronics optional. Boat in water at Star Island Yacht Club for sale to best offer at end of season. Getting larger Mako. Demonstration rides available. Contact Al Ristori at 201-334-8059 or leave message at Star Island, 516-668-5052.

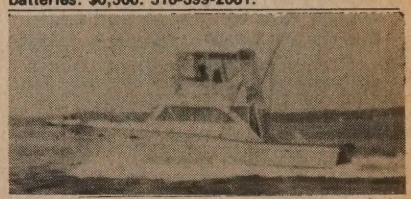
1977 BAYLINER 24' 200 hp. Volvo outdrive, 220 hrs. VHF, CB, stereo, F/B tabs, full galley, enclosed head, sleeps 4. Built in tackle box, insulated fish box & live bait well, etc. Must be seen, in water. 516-587-7473.

1977 19' SEA RAY, 115 hp. includes trailer and all extras. $4,000. 203-255-1041 or 203-255-9845.

FOR SALE 1974 26' SILVERTON, 10½' beam, sleeps 4, ship to shore, radio, compass, engine completely overhauled. 1983 Flying bridge. Pilot controls inside & out. Very good condition, $9,500. 212-720-5247 or 732-4536.

41' 1968 HATTERAS, 8V53's, SF, radar, loran, Rybo chair, microwave. Nice, $89,000. 516-643-2882, 516-543-7120. Old cars for sale also.

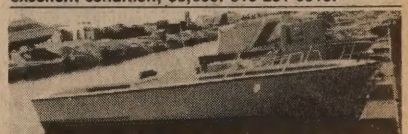
24' CARAVELLE cuddy, new 165 Mercruiser, tower, Si-Tex recorder, outriggers, CB, AM¶FM, 2 batteries. $6,500. 516-399-2681.



34' KariTank Sportfisherman 1966 Wood. Twin screw 225 FWC, rebuilt engine 1982. Equip. for deep sea fishing. Ready to go. Has to be see. After 6PM. 516-728-3802.

1976 19' Center Console, 70 h.p. Evinrude, SST prop, new Teleflex & water pump, VHF, D/F, Ritchie compass, bimini top, plus much more. 1983 E-Z Loader trailer. All excellent condition. Asking $5,200. Call Eves., 516-826-7728.

29' TROJAN twin six cylinder Chryslers, Loran C, white line recorder, sea water temp, VHF, CB, depth finder, fume detector, bilge water alarm, salt water washdown, gin pole, full canvas, excellent condition, $3,600. 516-281-0518.



24' Center Console, fiberglass, Chevy inboard engine. Radios, chart recorder, outriggers, good condition. $3,000. Nights, 212-458-7299.

LARSON 17', 1968 glass, modified V, full canvas, lights, horn, steering, no motor. $500. 516-277-1302.

ULTIMATE FISHING MACHINE
31' Bertram, GM6V53T's. Tower, fish equipped, complete electronics, $87,000. Sale by owner. 212-338-2969, Eves.

MAKO 20', 140 Johnson. New console, bimini and winter canvas, new dual batteries, recorder, UHF, outriggers, teak platform, bilge pump, fuel separator, much more. Will demo. 212-641-1860. $6950.00

1979 140 hp. EVINRUDE O/B. All controls, new Sears marine battery, spare prop-never used. On boat, can demonstrate, $2,000. Evenings, 516-486-5244.

Continued On Next Page

25' MAKO 1977, fully loaded with electronics, all canvas/cushions, reserve fuel tank for offshore fishing. All excellent condition. 200 hp. Johnson, new power head. 914-941-2203.

1981 23' Center Console SEACRAFT Sportfisherman with 200 Evinrude. Low hours, brand new bimini top, extras. Must Sell, $11,800. 516-433-4427.

SPORTCRAFT 170 Center Console, 1982. Evinrude 75 hp. PT/PT-1983, Cox trailer, 1983. All new in water April 1983. $7,000. 516-482-1667.

1974 19' LARSON Bowrider, Deep Vee. 1973 70 hp. Evinrude has about 45 hours. CB, compass, canvas, recirculating pump. Perfect running condition, $3,500. 516-546-6379.

DUCK BOAT, 10' wood, fiberglass bottom. Complete with cover & grass rails. $600. Days, 516-781-7766.

1980 EASTPORTER 24' Lobster Boat, 185 hp. I.O., Shoreline trailer, power winch, VHF, CB. Mint condition. $13,700. 363-6928.

1966 37' EGG HARBOR* FWC Chryslers. 1979 28' TOPAZ, tower, twin MTD 40 diesels. Full electronics with fighting chair. Call SEA JAC BROKERS, Jackson's Marina. Tom or Chris. 728-4220.

$7995.00 buys used 20' GALAXY, 120 hp. Merc. I/O with radio, rod holders, swim platform, power tilt and trim, head, top, side and back curtains. Cuddy cabin, very clean. City Island, 212-885 1667. J.J. BURCK.

GOLDEN EGG 33' 1977, FB/SF, twin 270 Crusaders w/lo hrs., 4 KW Onan, 2 depth sounders, VHF, loran. Best buy at $49,500. Located NJ Nautical Service Yacht Sales. 305-832-3230.

BERTRAM 25' Sport Fisherman. Twin 140 Mercruiser I/O's. New canvas, VHF, CB, loran, power anchor winch, AM/FM stereo tape. Both engines completely rebuilt in 1982. Must sell, bought bigger boat. $7,500. 516-543-0789.

25' ALGLAS S/F, 270 hp. Crusader I/B, F/B, Bimini, dual stations, 2 compasses, 2 VHF, CB, 2 depth sounders, outriggers, head, sleeps 4, many extras, excellent condition. Will demo. $11,500 Firm. Home, 516-589-1587. Bus., 516-575-3746.

STAMAS 26', Hartop, Twin V6 OMC I/O, new manifolds, UHF, DF, yard maintained. Bought larger boat. $9,000. Also, 8' Eli fiberglass dinghy with 2½ hp. Air cooled Eska engine. $400. 516-289-5462, Days.

GRADY-WHITE 1978. '78 Merc 175 hp. New canvas, CB & AM/FM radio. Stainless steel prop. Many extras. Excl. running condition. In water. $7,500 Firm. 516-666-7785.

20' SHAMROCK Center Console, 302/185 hp. FWC* Outriggers, stainless T-top, VHF, bowspray. 516-587-0032. $10,500. Firm.

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3 Watt, 78 ch. Marine hand-held VHF radio w/heavy duty NICAD batt., AC wall charger & flex antenna. While they last-$299. SEAWAY COMMUNICATIONS, Lindenhurst. 516-957-7171.

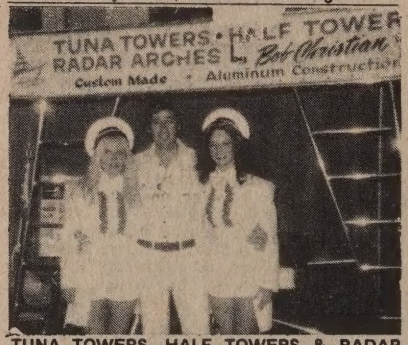
Electronics pkg. Standard VHF, Cobra CB, Mecca 6" white line chart recorder. Complete pkg. only. Make offer. 516-567-9249.

TOP BRAND BOAT TRAILERS DISCOUNTED 12'-$290; 14'-$310; 15'-$340; 16'-$355; 18'-$500; 20'-$640; 22' + 24 + 26' also avail. Extra capacities, roller cradles, galvanizing, delivery optional. Mariner outboards - Duranautic boats. 201-736-3909.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., INC., 1121-16 Lincoln Ave., Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

100% Stainless steel marine prods: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpit. Custom & standard products avail. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. 35, Neptuns City, NJ 07753. 201-988-8818. Send $2.25 for complete catalog.

ATTENTION MERCRUISER OWNERS
Save $$ on your trim cylinders that are being destroyed by electrolysis & corrision, with electrolysis insulators. Easy installation; satisfaction guaranteed. Send $16.95 to: ROSATO'S MARINE, 37 Beach Ave., Copiague, NY 11726. 516-842-2030. NY res. add tax + shipping $.95. Also avail. rebuilt trim cylinders, $65 ea. w/exchange.



TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Custom made radio & control boxes. Call Bob Christian, Eves: 516-979-9193.

CUSTOM TOWERS, RADAR ARCHES; bow & pulpit rails; fuel tanks. Lower units repaired. Complete stainless steel & aluminum fabrication. Mobile Heli-Arc welding. 10% discount w/this Ad. LONG ISLAND MARINE WELDERS, 563-1999.

COMPLETE your winterizing process by protecting exposed parts. After removing your Mercruiser O/D for winter storage. This unique protective cover & gasket will seal out all dirt, grit & rain. Trim cylinder support bar shown in photo optional. Send $19.95 for cover & gasket. For support bar add $2.50, to: ROSATO'S MARINE, 37 Beach Av., Copiague, NY 11726. 516-842-2030. NY res. add tax plus shpng. $1.25.

CARBURETORS, starters, alternators. Rebuilt on premises. Free bench check. Same day service. CRAFTSMAN, 268 Rt. 109, Farmingdale across from Republic Airport. 516-752-1259.

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20% Off List Price on all Evinrude & Johnson propellers in stock. BURCK, 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464. 212-885-1559.

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TRAILER, single axle, two ton capacity, 10" channel iron, supports 25' boat. $450. Also boat equipment. 914-834-4428 or 516-668-3046.

LORAN C* Si-Tex 737 with cables, coupler, antenna, and instruction book. Excellent, $300. 516-799-7123.

Two Mercury left hand S/S cleaver propellers 14½ X 23". $300. Firm. 516-587-7249.

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FLUKE KILLER RIGS: The ultimate in a deadly double hook rig. You will hook more & lose fewer fluke, since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. Hand tied, finest materials. 3 for $3.90. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Our 11th year.

BUCKO'S Parts & Service Center. We carry parts for Daiwa, Olympic, Newell, Ryobi, Penn, Zebco, Quick, Mitchell, Garcia. To order, call: 617-674-7900; or write: P.O. Box 87, Fall River, Mass. 02724.

BLUEFISH VARIETY PACKAGE
1-chromed 4 oz. anchovy jig w/tube tail; 1-A27 or A47 w/tube tail; 1-2 oz. Scandinavian jig, excl. for bonito & albacore. Retail value-$10.80; yours for only $4.95. Order 2 pkgs. for $9.90 & receive Free 1-A27 jig. Add $1.50 for post. & send check or M.O. to: LUREMASTER TACKLE CO., 105-05 Liberty Ave., Ozone Park, NY 11417. Quotes on bulk orders.

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WALT'S WALKERS are over the shoe, boot or wader quality, heavy duty rubbers w/12 hardened steel cleats. A must for jetty & ice fishermen & rocky stream fishing. Dealer inquiries invited. WALT'S WALKERS, P.O. Box 32, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. 609-597-5618. Available at Freddie's, Montauk Pt.

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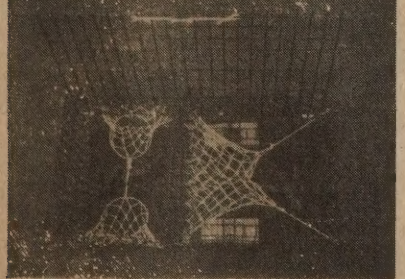

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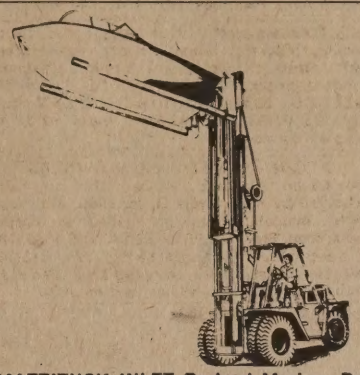

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Any size fish of the following species skin mounted & colors restored w/airbrush to your pictures or mine. $65 ea. mount: fluke, weakfish, blackfish, sea bass, porgy, rainbow trout, pike, pickerel, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, or gryling or char. INWOOD TAXIDERMY, 516-239-7716.

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1984s from 17' to 25'4"

"Fastest Growing Grady-White Dealer On Long Island"

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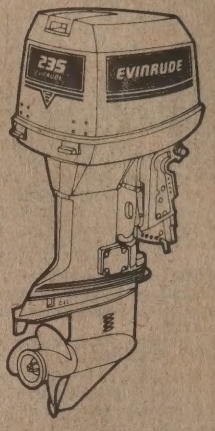

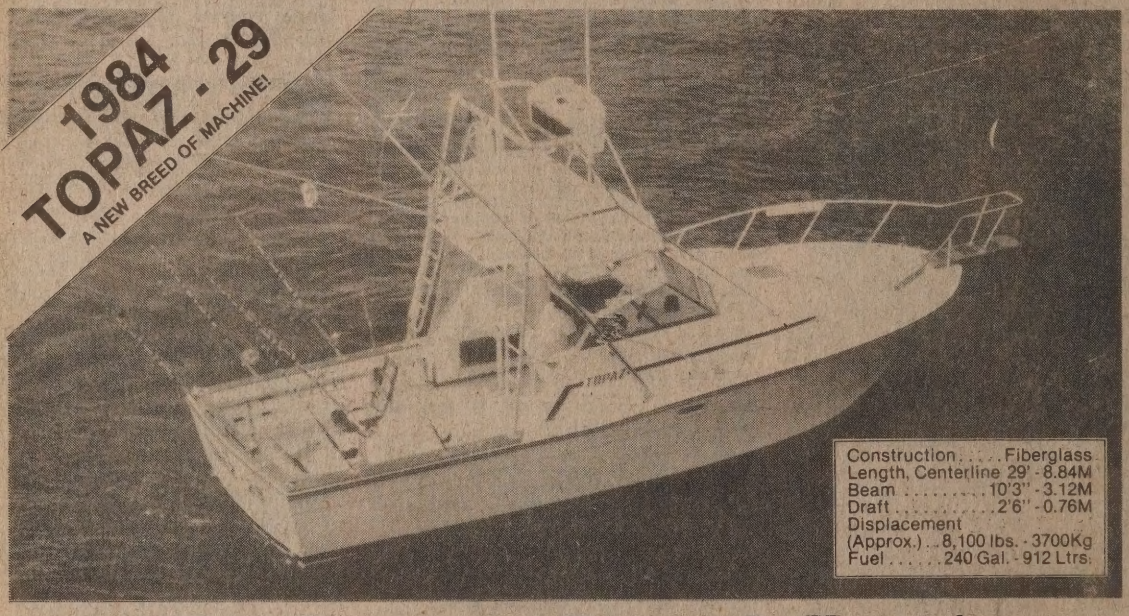

Construction	Fiberglass
Length, Centerline	29' - 8.84M
Beam	10'3" - 3.12M
Draft	2'6" - 0.76M
Displacement (Approx.)	8,100 lbs. - 3700Kg
Fuel	240 Gal. - 912 Ltrs.

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